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Colorado Field Ornithologist



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COVER PHOTO: Juvenile Boreal Owl, 31 August 1971, vicinity of Virginia Mine, Gunnison County, Colorado. Observed and photographed by William A. Calder, IV and William A. Calder, Jr.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gilded Flicker in Colorado? -- Further Comments

145 Esther Drive
Security, Colorado 80911
February 26, 1972

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

Dear Mr. Reddall:

As you know, a Gilded Flicker was included in the 1970 Colorado Springs Christmas Count. The matter was just recently brought to my attention by the publication of the record, without documentation, in the latest issue of the Colorado Field Ornithologist. I have sent the enclosed letter* to Dave Lupton protesting the undocumented inclusion of the record. Before writing the letter, however, I contacted the reporter, Dominic Bartol, and had several lengthy discussions with him. He also kindly gave me a copy of the photograph he took of it. Mr. Bartol has told me you asked him for an account of the bird and that he sent you a report and a copy of the photo, but no further action has been taken.

As my letter to Mr. Lupton states, I feel that the record must either be substantiated or retracted in the next issue of the CFO. I will appreciate it if you could tell me what conclusion you reached about this bird, and if you are planning any further action. It is my belief that there is insufficient evidence to separate this bird from a hybrid, however, I am not in a position to judge the matter. Perhaps the full description should be sent to someone who has a thorough knowledge of the variant plumages of hybrid flickers.

Yours truly,
Michael P. Schultz

*Editor's Note: Letter of February 24, 1972 published in LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 11, March 1972. Permission has been received by the Editor from Mr. Schultz, Reddall, and Bartol to further publish this related correspondence.

4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110
March 20, 1972

Mr. Michael P. Schultz
145 Esther Drive
Security, Colorado 80911

Dear Mr. Schultz:

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 1972, regarding the report of a Gilded Flicker in the Colorado Springs area during the 1970 Christmas Count. Not only was I dismayed when this sighting appeared in print in the November 1971 issue of the COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST (without documentation), I was equally disturbed when it was printed in AMERICAN BIRDS (The Seventy-First Christmas Bird Count, April 1971, Volume 25, Number 2, page 450) also without substantiation. I contacted Mr. Dominic Bartol on October 13, 1971 concerning this report and he was kind enough to supply me with details in writing along with several enlargements of photographs he had taken of the bird. After reviewing all of the information received from Mr. Bartol, I have come to the conclusion that the bird seen and photographed by him was unquestionably a Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted hybrid. While I'm certainly no expert on Flickers, it is inconceivable to me that a true Gilded Flicker that is indigenous to the Sonoran deserts of the Southwest, could have found its way to the Colorado Springs area far from its normal range and habitat and in the middle of winter! I have made over one hundred field trips to the reservoirs of eastern Colorado over the past eight years and have observed many hybrid Flickers that inhabit the groves of cottonwoods and willows of these areas. I have observed many variants over the years and it is a question in my mind if all three North American Flickers are not indeed one in the same. Just two months ago I observed what I suspected to be a Gilded Flicker in the saguaro deserts of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation northeast of Phoenix, Arizona that prominently displayed orange-red in the underwings. The Red-shafted Flicker abounds in the riparian woods in the area along the Verde River and quite possibly this was the species I saw. However, this is a tricky identification at best and quite possibly these two species may interbreed causing even greater problems for the field observer. For

the foregoing reasons therefore, I have discounted this sighting. However, after their review of the documentation, if the CFO wishes to accept this report as valid, then that is certainly their prerogative to do so.

The real problem, nevertheless, is not that someone may have made a misidentification. I dare say we have all been found guilty on that count. The real problem as I see it lies in the willingness of any and all reporting agencies to accept and publish reports of stragglers, accidentals and the like with not so much as one word of substantiation. This has bothered me for some time, particularly with reports printed by both the Colorado Field Ornithologists as well as those by the Denver Field Ornithologists. I feel that our "official" State Bird List includes many questionable and unqualified birds based solely on one or two unsubstantiated sight reports or photographs of species which are extremely difficult to identify in the field. Because of this I am preparing a proposed standard to follow in order to qualify a particular species for inclusion on the Colorado State Bird List. Hopefully I will be able to gain some acceptance of my ideas, thus establishing some credence to our State List. In addition, rare and unusual sightings should also be subjected to close scrutiny especially before they are accepted as valid and put into print.

In summary, I hope I have offered some assistance regarding the Gilded Flicker question. Obviously I'm not the final word and the opinions expressed herein are strictly my own. Most importantly, I did not see the bird. Mr. Bartol did! If and when I complete my proposal on the State Bird List, I intend to submit Mr. Bartol's documentation and photographs to (hopefully) a review panel for acceptance or rejection of the species in question having occurred in Colorado.

Thank you again for your correspondence on this matter.

Sincerely,
Jack Reddall

Copy to:

Mr. Dominic Bartol, Jr.
2718 North Prospect
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Mr. David Lupton, Editor
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST
Colorado State University
Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

26 March 1972

Mr. David Lupton, Editor
Colorado Field Ornithologist
Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Dear Mr. Lupton:

This letter responds to page 2, Colorado Field Ornithologist, Vol #11 (Mar 72).

If Mr. Schultz' letter aims to generate standardized CFO documentation procedure, fine. If it is to enjoy self effacement in print (who doesn't?), the following comments are offered for the amelioration of distress my friend the GILDED FLICKER may have caused to the readership of CFO and/or AMERICAN BIRDS.

1. Editors have problems too. Most are unsung heroes serving the readership with valuable time and experience - and most often without remuneration. Protesting may be in some circles currently mod but perhaps somewhat negative in the evolution of field ornithology refinements. More importantly it does not improve the lot of our birds one whit.

2. Mrs. Bartol and I saw the bird. Mr. Schultz did not. Our several sightings each of five days was more than cursory opportunity. We provided timely notice of our discovery to AAS (Aiken Audubon Society) seeking corroborative sightings. The AAS "Rare Bird Alert Tree" was not activated. Nor was it activated in our finds of the TRI-COLORED BLACKBIRD; the ST. HELENA WAXBEAK (local pet shops disclaimed ever having this bird); the GYRFALCON; a near ALBINO HOUSE FINCH; and, a still unidentified bird that local "experts", including Mr. Schultz, cannot identify from clear 8x10 photos realized from my blind with a Leica M3, Elmarit 135 mm lens from 2 1/2 feet. It seems "beginners" are sometimes baptized with zilch credence and to this I must accede. However, here is a clue for the "distressed experts": NEVER BE FINALLY CERTAIN ABOUT WHAT IS AND WHAT ISN'T IN NATURE!

3. Mr. Lupton's placement of the Gilded Flicker in the hypothetical category is logical and tactful. The data may distress some but I certainly don't mind and I risk that the Gilded Flicker doesn't give a hoot about it one way or another.

4. Mr. Schultz reported me as hazy on the plumage. He may be correct. However, I do have about 125 local species on film for my book, "Birds of the Pike's Peak Region" and believe visual acuity is passable but that the verbal expertise to put every feather in place is somewhat lacking at this point.

For anyone else greatly distressed about the Gilded Flicker report, may I offer a therapeutic? Go out and help the birds.

Ideas? I recently built and located 78 birdhouses in the Colorado Springs area (after 1 1/2 years of persuasion AAS funded the materials); Colorado Springs by ordinance has declared itself as a bird sanctuary; and, do a useful book so others can enjoy birds and one that will help the principals in these hassles - the birds.

Sincerely,
DOMINIC A. BARTOL
Lt Col USAF (ret)
2718 North Prospect
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

cc: Mr. Mike Schultz
Mr. Jack Reddall
Mr. Allan Cruickshank

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April 3, 1972

Letter to the Editor:

Concerning the controversy over the "Gilded Flicker" reported on the 1970 Colorado Springs Christmas Count, it seems odd no one has mentioned the possibility of the bird being a hybrid Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted. All the field marks of a Gilded may have been seen and the bird could still be a hybrid with the wing coloration of a Yellow-shafted and the head pattern of a Red-shafted. I think the bird is best forgotten.

Van Remsen
1441 Hawthorne Terrace
Berkeley, California 94708

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STOP PRESS!

Editor's Note:

The April 1972 issue of American Birds (Volume 26, no. 2) has just been published. The article "The Seventy-Second Christmas Bird Count" by Allan D. Cruikshank, p. 145, contains the following statement:

"In the 1970 Colorado Springs count a Gilded Flicker, a species never recorded in the state, was accepted because of the explanation that the bird was studied carefully and photographed. A recent check of these photos reveals that they lack sufficient details to separate this bird from the many hybrids that occur in the area."

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

308 Country Club Park
Grand Junction, Colorado
81501
May 30, 1972

Mr. John Reddall
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

Dear Jack:

A Records Committee, with you as Chairman, was created by the directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists at the Annual Meeting held in Boulder on May 20, 1972. The other members appointed to the committee, to all of whom I shall send copies of this letter, are:

Mr. Hugh Kingery
10 Emerson, Denver 80218

Dr. Thompson Marsh
199 Ash Street, Denver 80220

Dr. Paul Julian
1269 Chinook, Boulder 80303

Mr. Dave Griffiths
17 Solar Drive, Pueblo 81005

Mr. Richard Stransky
175 West 29th Street, Durango 81301

Dr. William A. Davis
308 Country Club Park, Grand Junction 81501

The duties of the committee are:

- a) to establish criteria for records of birds in Colorado, including a standard form for reporting sight records.
- b) to draw up a Colorado State bird list based on these criteria and publish it.
- c) to review new reports of species new to the state or of rarity and decide on the acceptability of the record.
- d) to maintain the records.

You have already made a big start on this job. I realize that completion of the first two charges will take considerable time and effort. As chairman, it is pretty much up to you how you use your committee.

There is one point I would like done as soon as possible - the development of a form for the reporting of Unusual Records. Enclosed is the form I have been sending out to people. Please review it in comparison with your "Sight Report." I have no objections to your form but believe the question "What other species could it have been" on my form (partially stolen from the Arkansas form) is worth while. I hope this can be the first job of the committee.

No decision was made as to whether the Committee would pass on all Unusual Records, such as a late date for a migrant or a report of a rare species which has been well documented in the past. In my opinion, the Committee has a big job to do and should not yet take on this load. Therefore, Hugh Kingery and I will continue to receive these unusual records, screen them and compile unusual observations for the bulletin. In case a report of a species new to the state comes in or there is a borderline question, I shall refer the reports to the Committee through you. Since some reports which should go to the Committee may go directly to Dave Lupton as Editor, I am sending him a copy of this letter also. In any event, the sooner we get to a uniform report form the happier I will be.

There is already work for the committee. Two species, new to the state, have been seen. Black Phoebes were found nesting by the Pueblo group. A White-eyed Vireo was seen by Paul Julian who called Thompson Marsh to come up and confirm it. I hope they will both fill a form on these.

Thank you for taking on this important assignment.

With best personal regards,
William A. Davis

cc: David W. Lupton
Editor, CFO

Colorado Field Ornithologists

Dear

This is a request for a written report of an unusual observation.

The Colorado Field Ornithologists are trying to keep records of all unusual observations of birds in Colorado. By an unusual observation we mean one of a species which is rare or new to the state, or of a common species at an unusual place or time.

While some consider the only acceptable evidence for an unusual record is a collected specimen or a good photograph, most records will have to be based on sight observations. The best way to report these is by an adequate verifying description. This is, of course, a basic scientific principle. To facilitate it, the accompanying report form has been made up.

Reports will be used for several purposes. Primarily, they are for the accumulation of data. They will be used in selecting the "bird of the year" award and made available to compilers of regional bird lists. They are part of an effort to obtain concrete evidence which may be made part of our state records.

Your cooperation in making written reports of unusual observations will be appreciated.

Colorado Field Ornithologists
Report of Unusual Sight Record

Species:

Date:

Hour:

Location:

Habitat:

Who first noted the bird?

Others who confirmed identification:

Did you know it was unusual when you observed it?

Did you have a good opportunity for observation (time, light,
view, binoculars)?

What experience have you had with this species previously?

How did you identify the bird? Describe in detail what you saw
and heard in the field.

What similar species might it have been? How were these eliminated?

Name:

Date:

Address:

(Use other side or additional pages if needed.)

GYRFALCON SPECIMEN FROM COLORADO

Alfred M. Bailey
Director Emeritus
Denver Museum of Natural History
Denver, Colorado 80206

A female immature Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus obsoletus), trapped by John L. Linthicum, a falconer, along Horse Creek Reservoir, Adams County, on December 11, 1969, was recorded by Gerald R. Craig (Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 9, p. 20). According to Mr. Craig the bird was lost about three weeks later--the first day it was flown free.

It should be noted that the Gyrfalcon was recovered, and passed through the hands of several falconers, and that it died in captivity April 4, 1970. The bird was sent to the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs to be studied and then was donated to the Museum by Mr. Linthicum. This is the first specimen record for Colorado (D.M.N.H. no. 36112).

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST ATTAINS
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

As an aid to the scientific community, many scientific journals have attained the distinction of having their contents cited in various abstracting, indexing, and reviewing services. Select articles appearing in issues of the Colorado Field Ornithologist have been and continue to be cited in the following journals and indexing/abstracting services: Biological Abstracts (U.S.), Zoological Record (England), Wildlife Review (U.S.), Auk (U.S.) and Ring (Poland).

As an aid to institutional subscribers and libraries desiring price, ordering information, and frequency of publication of the Colorado Field Ornithologist, sources such as Ulrich's International Periodical Directory, Standard Periodical Directory, and subscription agents catalogs (Faxon, EBSCO, etc.) provide this type of information.

FOURTH COLORADO RECORD OF THE RED PHALAROPE

Van A. Truan
2510 Elizabeth Street
Pueblo, Colorado 81003

While birding on April 13, 1972 at the southwest end of CF & I Lakes (#3 Reservoir) near Pueblo, Colorado I observed a white bird with a dark back walking on the mud flats and acting very strangely. My first impression was that it could be a small gull. Then I noted its yellow bill with a black tip and also noticed that it bobbed as it walked. That led me to believe that it might be a phalarope.

Momentarily the bird was out of my sight; then it flew directly towards me. When it flew I observed the blue-gray back and wings with white stripes running almost to the tips. As soon as it landed again, I watched it for about forty-five minutes through my 20-45 power spotting scope at a distance of fifty to fifteen feet.

By this time I was positive that the strange bird was a rare Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius), but I returned to my car and checked all of the bird's field markings with Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds and Robbin's Birds of North America.

Because a rare sighting like a Red Phalarope in Colorado needed to be confirmed, I drove to the nearest telephone and asked Dave Griffiths, vice-president of the Pueblo Audubon Club and member of the Colorado Field Ornithologist's Records Committee to come to the site. He confirmed my record, the first in the area and fourth in the state of Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach. Birds of Colorado. 1965).

That evening I called Colorado Springs birders and Dave Griffiths called Denver area birders to alert them of the rare sighting. On Friday, April 14, Sam Gadd, Colorado Springs, and Mike Schultz, Security, drove down to Pueblo. After tramping around in mud, rain and snow for more than three hours they finally spotted the elusive Colorado straggler.

On Saturday, April 15th, Mildred Snyder, Aurora; Nancy Hurley, Denver; Mike and Lois Schultz and I again found the Red Phalarope around 2 p.m. at the south end of the Reservoir #3. We watched it for about thirty-five minutes.

The Red Phalarope was a "lifer" for all observers except me; I saw one at Salton Sea in California last July.

Editor's Note:

As a junior Biology major at Southern Colorado State College, Pueblo, Mr. Truan is doing an independent study on "Spring Migration of Birds at CF&I Lakes", under the sponsorship of Dr. Gerald C. Farris of the SCSC Biology faculty.

JUVENILE BOREAL OWL IN GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

William A. Calder, IV
and
William A. Calder, Jr.
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

On 31 August 1971 the senior author flushed a juvenile Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) at the Virginia Mine site, elevation ca. 3050 m and 1 1/2 km northeast of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gunnison County, Colorado. The owl flew ca. 25 m before perching. We approached to within 3 m and were able to photograph the bird (cover photo). Previous observation at close range and photography of the Saw-whet Owl (A. acadicus) in Washington convinced the junior author of the identification of the larger Boreal Owl.

The Boreal Owl has been recorded five times previously in Colorado, only one of which was this far south (Crested Butte, ca. 10 km distant) (Bailey, pers. comm. and Bailey and Niedrach, 1965: Birds of Colorado, Vol. I., p. 439). Those authors discuss the possibility that the species may nest in Colorado, based upon an August 1963 juvenile specimen from Larimer County. Our observation of an August juvenile in Gunnison County furthers the consideration of this possibility.

DUPED BY A RAVEN

Merle L. Richmond
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Building 16, Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

On a beautiful clear morning in late June of 1961, Jon Erickson, fisheries biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and I went to Two Ocean Lake in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming to analyze the water quality. When our job was finished, we leisurely turned the boat back towards the launching area. At that moment, our curiosity was aroused by the peculiar antics of a Common Raven (Corvus corax) along the lake shore. It was squawking loudly and thrashing about the shallow water. As we drew nearer, the raven moved towards a point along the shore while continuing this odd display. It was plainly not injured, but its theatrics had captured our curiosity. We slowly followed the bird's progress by putting the boat on a parallel course and slightly behind.

The raven continued to squawk and flail the water as we followed. On a few occasions when we lagged too far behind, it back-tracked a short distance and then renewed its showy antics. After we had followed the raven for 100 yards, we suddenly noticed that we were rounding the point and entering a small bay. To our surprise there were two Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and four goslings about 50 feet away! The adult geese, startled by our intrusion, flushed about 50 yards away, leaving their goslings alone and defenseless. The squawking raven and a silent partner who had remained on the bay's opposite shore swiftly swooped in, and each nabbed a gosling. Both ravens landed to eat their prey on a stump across the bay.

Jon and I left the scene with mixed feelings. We were rather dejected and indignant over the ravens using us as they did, but thrilled to have witnessed such a "clever" spectacle.

LONG-DISTANCE RECOVERIES OF COMMON GRACKLES BANDED IN
NORTH-CENTRAL COLORADO

Donald F. Mott, Joseph L. Guarino, Paul P. Woronecki, Willis C. Royall, Jr.
Wildlife Research Center
U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Building 16, Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

Twelve Common Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula) have been banded in north-central Colorado from Fort Collins south to Englewood and recovered outside of this area (Figure 1). They were banded by the authors (8), Allegra Collister (2), Johnson A. Neff (1), and Professor and Mrs. J. B. Rishel (1). The Rishels banded in 1928, and the others in the 1960's. Banding dates ranged from May 25 through August 13.

Four grackles, two in fall and two in spring, were probably migrants at the time of recovery. One banded in Englewood was shot northeast of Sheridan Lake, Colorado, on October 4. Of two banded in Lakewood, one was recovered at Winona, Kansas, on October 19 and the other, at Ranger, north-central Texas, on March 14; one banded at Fort Collins was recovered at Security, Colorado, on March 13 (letter date).

The other eight grackles were recovered in eastern Texas from Paris and Deport (near the Oklahoma state line) south to Mission Valley (about 115 miles WSW of Houston). Recovery dates extended from December 3 (letter date) to April 5, but December and January each accounted for three recoveries. These records show that north-central Colorado grackles winter mainly in eastern Texas. However, some may winter farther north or east. S. H. Weakley banded a grackle at Fort Smith, Arkansas, March 15, 1952, that was recovered in the Lafayette-Longmont, Colorado, area in July, 1953.

With continued banding, more may be learned about the migration routes and seasonal distribution of this grackle population. We thank Allegra Collister for permission to include her two eastern Texas recovery records and Johnson A. Neff for inclusion of his Sheridan Lake record.



Legend for Figure:
★ = Banding sites
● = Recovery sites

Figure 1. Common grackle banding and recovery locations.

REVISION OF OCCURRENCE AND STATUS
OF
"BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK"

Allegra Collister
706 Hover Road
Longmont, Colorado 80501

- COMMON LOON: One 26 April 1970, Lake Estes; third east slope record in RMNP area (Beverly Hutchens).
- WESTERN GREBE: Flock of 21, Lake Granby, 26 June 1971 to 7 July 1971 (Gerald Fultz). May be fairly common in migration.
- WHITE-FACED IBIS: One 5 May 1971 (Ruth Deffenbaugh); 13 on 12 April 1972 (Allegra Collister); two 17 April 1972 (Warner Reeser); all at Lake Estes. Rare migrant.
- WHISTLING SWAN: Five 17-18 March 1971, Lake Estes (many observers; photos by Ted and Lois Matthews). First east slope record in RMNP area.
- OLDSQUAW: One female 11 November 1970, Lake Granby (Robert and Nancy Gustafson). First west slope record in RMNP area.
- OSPREY: Pair nested at Lake Granby, summer 1971 (Robert Haines). First verified nesting record from RMNP west slope area.
- COMMON SNIPE: One 15 April 1971, early date, (Warner Reeser). Fairly common breeder both sides of Park in suitable habitat.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Two 26 April 1971, Lake Estes (Beverly Hutchens). Casual in migration.
- WILLET: 13 on 13 July 1971, Lake Granby (Gerald Fultz); 11 on 23 July 1971 same area (Mr. and Mrs. Max Parker). One previous record.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER: One 18 September 1971, Lake Granby (Robert and Nancy Gustafson). Rare Migrant; within normal range.
- AMERICAN AVOCET: One 12 April 1972, Lake Estes (Allegra Collister, Lois Matthews). Rare migrant in RMNP area.
- CALIFORNIA GULL: First RMNP east slope record: one found dead at Lake Estes 17 July 1970 (Mrs. J. B. Herschler); had been banded 30 June 1970 at Riverside Reservoir, 100 miles east, by Dr. Ronald A. Ryder. Three 26 April 1971, Lake Estes (Beverly Hutchens). Two 18 April 1972, Lake Estes (Warner Reeser).
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON: Flock of about 40 at feeding station near Drake on North Fork of Thompson River, just outside RMNP, in July 1971.
- PYGMY OWL: First report from west slope RMNP, one in mid-August, 1971 near Lulu City trailhead (Joe and Judy Bartell).

- SAW-WHET OWL: One calling 25 March 1971 near Estes Park (Warner Reeser). Fifth RMNP area record on east slope in recent years. Editor's Note: Editor's statement of only one previous record in Estes Park, CFO no. 11, March 1972, page 17, is in error.
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Two 27 June 1971, East Inlet Trail (Allen Crockett); first west slope record in RMNP area.
- SAY'S PHOEBE: Two 18 April 1972, Estes Park (Warner Reeser); fairly common visitor spring and fall.
- LEAST FLYCATCHER: One 1 July 1971, YMCA grounds (Camille Cummings); previous identifications by voice, and one specimen.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One banded 30 June 1971 (Allegra Collister); rarely seen in mountains.
- SCRUB JAY: One 18 December 1971 near Estes Park (Lois Matthews, photo); second record for that region.
- PINON JAY: 40 on 4 September 1966, Paradise Park, about 10,500 feet elevation; 31 on 31 August 1969 over Mt. Adams (both by Hugh Kingery); two previous west slope records.
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Two 18 April 1972, Lake Estes (Warner Reeser); first record for RMNP area.
- MOCKINGBIRD: One 18 April 1972 near Olympus Dam (Warner Reeser); casual visitor.
- HERMIT THRUSH: Many heard singing June 1970 on west slope of RMNP (Hugh Kingery); undoubtedly a common breeding species there.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD: Three 12 November 1968, Devils Gulch Road; pair 10 April 1972 near Estes Park (both by Warner Reeser); casual visitor.
- OVENBIRD: One 22 November to 28 December 1970 at Richard Krogh feeding station near Estes Park; second record for area.
- YELLOWTHROAT: One male 17 September 1966 near Grand Lake, second west slope record (Hugh Kingery); one male 4 March 1972 on road to Hidden Valley, early record (Ira Sanders).
- REDSTART: One 17 May 1970 near Fall River, third RMNP record (Patty Echelmeyer).
- BOBOLINK: One male 23 May 1970, Moraine Park; only observation since that by Niedrach and Rockwell in 1929 (Dr. Peter Hall).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: One 17 September 1971; one 1 May 1972, Estes Park (both by Marian Patterson); perhaps uncommon rather than rare in area.
- COMMON GRACKLE: Formerly rare, now becoming all too common.
- SCARLET TANAGER: One male 25 May to 22 June 1971 at Richard Krogh feeding station, Devils Gulch road. Accidental; one previous record.

- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Two observations, Estes Park 21 May and 23 May 1970, perhaps the same bird (Dr. Peter Hall, Marian Patterson). One previous spring record; four summer records.
- LAZULI BUNTING: Pair 16 May 1971 at feeder near Estes Park; second spring record (Lois Matthews).
- HOUSE FINCH: Fairly common at all seasons except mid-winter at feeder near Estes Park (Marian Patterson).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: One 23 December 1970 (Fort Collins Bird Club); only winter record.
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Seven 17 May 1970 near Fall River (Patty Echelmeyer).
- RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE: Rare visitor; two additional record. One 4 May 1971 (Lois Matthews); one 5 April 1972, early record (Allegra Collister).
- LARK BUNTING: A second occurrence on west side of RMNP. One male 23 June 1971 (Gerald Fultz).
- SAGE SPARROW: One 18 March 1972 at Marian Patterson feeding station, Estes Park (Allegra Collister). One previous record.
- OREGON JUNCO: One 5 May 1972 above Fish Creek; late spring record (Allegra Collister).
- TREE SPARROW: Late spring record; two 16 May 1970 (Fort Collins Bird Club) near Estes Park. Also, one 15 May 1971 (Warner Reeser).
- BREWER'S SPARROW: Probably uncommon spring migrant. Three 18 April 1972 near Lake Estes (Warner Reeser).
- HARRIS' SPARROW: One 23 December 1971 (Fort Collins Bird Club). Third record in RMNP region.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: One 1 January 1972, lower Big Thompson Canyon, just outside RMNP area (Lois Matthews). No previous record.

BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

by
Allegra CollisterPublications Department
Denver Museum of Natural History
Denver, Colorado 80206

\$1.00

UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

Compiled by

William A. Davis
308 Country Club Park
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

and

Hugh Kingery
10 Emerson Street
Denver, Colorado 80218

Mississippi Kite -- Four were observed at the colony site near La Junta on May 19, 1972 by William Andersen and Babette Cranson. Early arrival date.

Mountain Quail -- In April 1972 a covey of Mountain Quail were "discovered" in the Unaweep Canyon - Outlaw Mesa area of western Colorado near the Colorado-Utah state line. First sighting since sixty-six were released in the area in 1968 by the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department.

Cattle Egret -- On November 21, 1971 Mrs. Inez Baker carefully observed an immature Cattle Egret at Union Reservoir northeast of Longmont. Observations were made of the bird standing and in flight from as close as twenty feet.

American Avocet -- Two were observed near Waverly, north of Fort Collins, by H. K. Hagen on February 27, 1972. Unusually early date; earliest date reported by Holt for Denver area is March 17, 1963.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- A common summer resident in western Colorado (William A. Davis, Birds In Western Colorado, 1969), this species is rarely found in north-central parts of the state. One was observed on 22 May 1972 as it worked its way through the scrub growth on the hillside above Bear Creek just west of Boulder. Allegra Collister.

Yellow-throated Warbler -- On the morning of 7 May 1972 Marjorie Lett heard an unfamiliar warbler song at her home east of Platteville. She and her husband John investigated and soon located the singer in pine trees growing on cemetery property bordering the Lett place. As the song had indicated, this was not one of the usual warbler migrants. A careful study of field guides revealed the identity of the bird, a Yellow-throated Warbler, a rare but not unprecedented find in Colorado. The white eye-line and distinct white ear patch helped to distinguish this bird from the similar Grace's Warbler. The Letts called me in the afternoon and we again found the warbler feeding actively among the branches of the pines. There is one specimen from Colorado in the Denver Museum of Natural History, a male found dead on the screened porch of a Loveland resident some months after the bird had taken shelter from a spring snow storm. The mummified bird was perfectly preserved (Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, 1965). There have been previous observations at Buena Vista, Golden, and Boulder. Hence Mrs. Lett's observation is the fourth sight record in Colorado and the first record for Weld County. Allegra Collister.

Pine Warbler -- A female or immature Pine Warbler was trapped and banded (band # 121-99673) by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Whitney on 26 November 1971 at their feeding station in Lyons, Colorado. Identification was confirmed by Mrs. John Thielen.

Bobolink -- There are many Bobolink records, nevertheless finding them is always a pleasant surprise. Two pairs were seen in a lush pasture just west of Longmont on 31 May 1972. The males displayed from fenceposts and gave chase to drab females over knee-high grass - typical Bobolink habitat. Allegra Collister.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak -- A male was at the feeder of Mrs. Robert Bradford in Durango from May 12 to May 20, 1972. Seen and reported by Howard Winkler.

Purple Finch -- A single female was seen with Cassin's Finches at Evergreen on March 29, 30 and 31, 1972 by Sylvia and Winston Brockner. Mrs. Brockner has banded several hundred Cassin's Finches and her detailed description on the differences are worth quoting. She wrote: "I just noted a bird at the feeder which did not look like the regular Cassin's Finches--distinctly snowy white underneath with large blurred brown streaks. Also had a very prominent white line over the eye. The under tail coverts were white with no streaking. --- The only other bird this could have been is a female Cassin's Finch. --- They are all much more ochreous yellow than this bird especially on the cheek patch. They also without exception had streaked under tail coverts."

House Finch -- A bird with yellow, rather than red, markings was seen in Durango from March 10 to mid April, 1972 by Elva Fox, Oppie Reames and Kip Stransky. Such coloration is common in Hawaii. Whether the Durango bird was an escapee from the Islands or is a new variant is not known.

Black-throated Sparrow -- One was seen at Baller Lake, 5 miles south of Longmont on 18 April 1972. Camille Cummings and I saw it fly into a small willow and noted its distinctive markings. We are both familiar with this species from many observations in Arizona. It flew down into low vegetation and later came out on the road where it was seen by members of the Foothills Audubon Club. The Black-throated Sparrow is a locally common resident in western Colorado (William A. Davis, Birds in Western Colorado, 1969) but is rarely found in north-central parts of the state. This is the second Boulder County record. Allegra Collister.

Chestnut-collared Longspur -- A flock of fifteen birds was seen on April 15, 1972 at Glade Park near Grand Junction by Helen Carlson of Bozeman, Montana and W. A. Davis. This is the third available record for Colorado west of the mountains though Professor Sidney Hyde of Gunnison considers this species a regular but rarely noted spring migrant on the western slope. Males were identified by the white face with black stripes, chestnut collar and all black belly. Search of the females for rusty shoulder patches failed to suggest any other species in the flock.

CFO MEMBERSHIP LIST -- ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

compiled by

David W. Lupton
Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

General Membership

Calder, Dr. William A., Jr., Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Crested Butte, Colorado 81224.
Clawson, Beatrice B., 1030 Ravenwood Rd., Boulder, Colorado 80303.
Daniel, Mrs. Anna Margaret, 1007 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.
Fox, Mrs. Maynard, 53 Rio Vista Circle, Durango, Colorado 81301.
Goodwin, Mrs. Elizabeth, 2885 - 17th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302.
Kladder, Mrs. Ivan C., P. O. Box 1966, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501.
Martin, Dr. Stephen G., 301 Thunderbird Dr., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.
Michaels, Ruth L., 3060 Fountain Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80910.
Moody, Miss Virginia, 735 S. Clinton St., Apt. 3A, Denver, Colorado 80222.
Stolz, Douglas F., Route 2, Box 274M, Evergreen, Colorado 80439.
Van Cleve, G. Bernard, 304 S. Winebiddle St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15224.

Library Subscriptions

Serials Department, Library, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa 50010.
Wildlife Review, Attn: Dr. Chandler S. Robbins, Chief, Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies, Division of Wildlife Research, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland 20810 (complimentary).
Managing Recorder, Attn: Mr. Michael N. Dadd, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, England (complimentary).

Library Exchanges

California -- Mr. David C. Swift, Director of Research, International Bird Rescue Research Center, 2701 Eighth St., Berkeley, California 94710.
Publication--International Bird Rescue Newsletter.

Delaware -- Mr. Lloyd L. Falk, Publications Chairman, Delmarva Ornithological Society, 123 Bette Rd., Wilmington, Delaware 19803. Publication--Delmarva Ornithologist.

Canada -- Mr. Eric H. Cooke, President, Nova Scotia Bird Society, % Nova Scotia Museum of Science, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Publication--Nova Scotia Bird Report.

England -- Mr. E. Carp, Administrator, International Wildfowl Research Bureau, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England. Publication--International Wildfowl Research Bureau. Bulletin.

Hong Kong -- Mr. Lao Wei-ching, MBOU, Flat B, Venus Court 3/f, 5 King Tak Street, Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Publication--Hong Kong Bird Report (Hong Kong Bird Watching Society).

India -- Mr. Zafar Futehally, Editor, Birdwatchers' Field Club of India, 32-A Juhu Lane, Andheri, Bombay-58 AS, India. Publication--Newsletter for Birdwatchers.

Sweden -- Librarian, Dept. of Exchange, Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Bibliotek, S-104 05 Stockholm 50, Sweden. Publication--Zoologica Scripta.

CORRECTIONS

General Membership

- Bergland, Mark - change of address to: 6971 Kenilworth Dr., Lambertville, Michigan 48144.
Cole, Mrs. Terry - change of address to: 721 N. Taft Hill Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.
Harden, Dr. Ronald D. - change of address to: 1440 W. 29th St., Loveland, Colorado 80537.
Lupton, David W. - change of address to: 2808 W. Horsetooth Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.

Library Exchanges

Massachusetts -- Manomet Bird Observatory, add the publication Manomet Bird Observatory. Research Report.

Canada -- Ontario Bird Banding Association, add the publication Long Point Bird Observatory. Annual Report.

ANNOUNCEMENT

CFO FIELD TRIP TO PUEBLO, SEPTEMBER, 1972

David A. Silverman
Field Trip Chairman-Pueblo Audubon Club
2214 West Street
Pueblo, Colorado 81003

David Lupton
Editor-CFO Journal
Serials Section-Colo. State Univ. Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Dear Mr. Lupton:

The Colorado Field Ornithologists decided at its annual meeting in May, 1972, to schedule field trips in Pueblo on the weekend of September 9-10. The Pueblo Audubon Club will be the CFO's host, and as Field Trip Chairman of the Club, I have been assigned to arrange the details of the program.

CFO members should meet us on Saturday, September 9, 7:30 AM, at Mineral Palace Park where coffee and donuts will be served. Field trips will leave immediately at 8 AM.

Our best birding areas are: Wetmore-Westcliffe for mountain birds; Canon City for juniper-pinon birds (Gnatcatchers, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Gray Flycatcher); CF&I Reservoirs for shorebirds and waterfowl; Arkansas River for eastern stragglers (Brown Thrasher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting). A trip to La Junta could be arranged to see Mississippi Kites.

Saturday night an entertaining program is planned, and notes can be exchanged on the birds seen earlier that day. On Sunday short half-day field trips are scheduled for those wishing to stay the entire weekend.

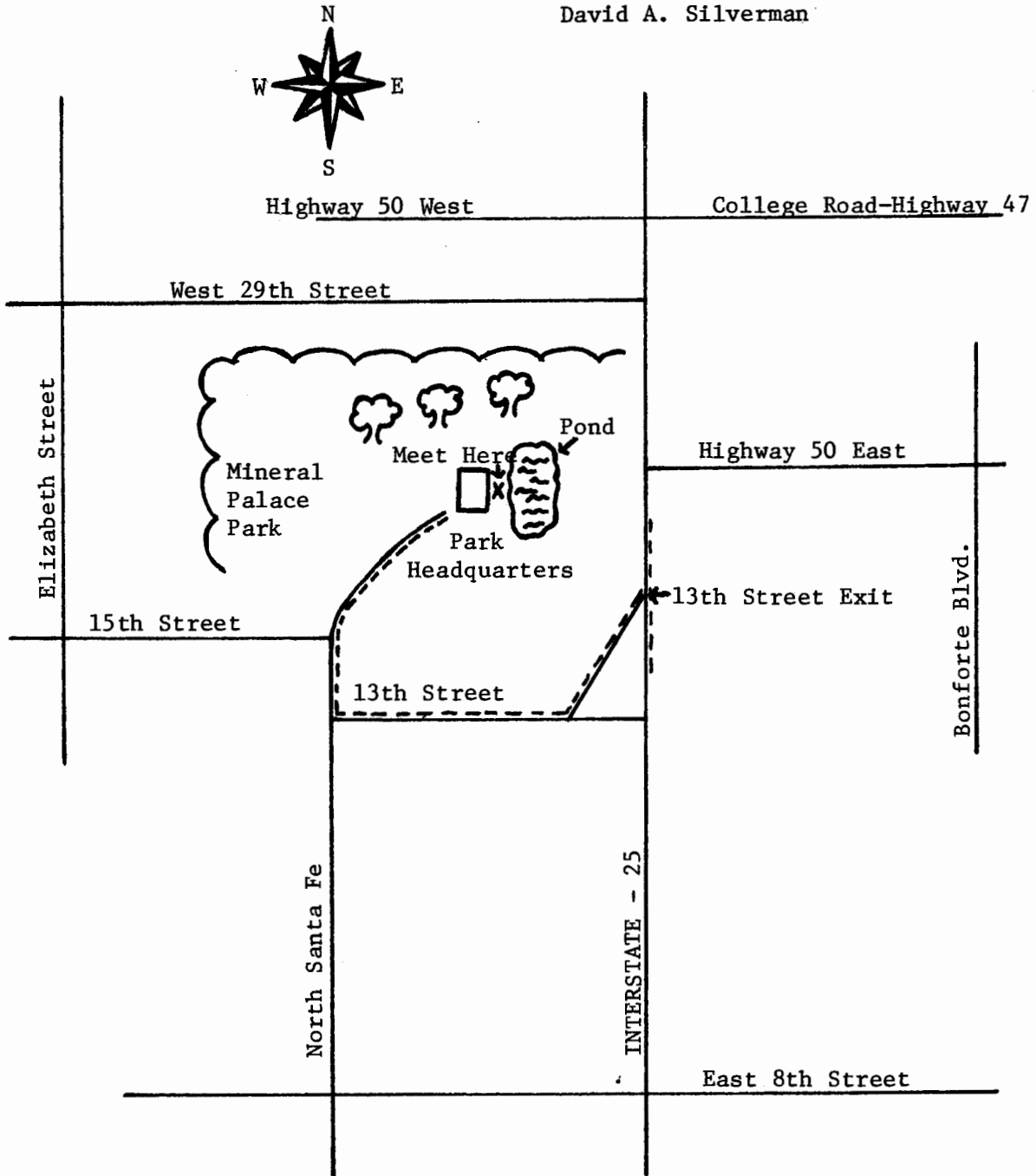
For CFO people arriving Friday night and staying until Sunday, the following accommodations are available:

- 1) Our best (and most expensive) motels are Pueblo West Inn, 8 miles west of Pueblo on Highway 50 West; the Ramada Inn, Highway 50 East at Bonforte Blvd.; and the Chilton Inn, Highway 50 West at Elizabeth.
- 2) More modest but adequate accommodations are the Town House Motel, North Santa Fe at 8th Street; the Downtown Motel, 115 East 8th Street near North Santa Fe; the Rambler Inn, I-25 at Exit #44; and the Bel-Mar Motel on 414 West 29th Street.

- 3) For those wanting to "rough it", there are Rest Areas on I-25 10 miles north and 20 miles south of Pueblo; a KOA Campground is located north of College Road on I-25 just north of Pueblo.

We are glad to have the CFO as our guests and are hoping that our birds will provide you with plenty of excitement!

Sincerely,
David A. Silverman



The Colorado Field Ornithologist is a quarterly 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 David W. Lupton, Editor; Serials Section, Colorado State University Libraries; Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. Membership and subscription fees: Full member \$5.00; Library subscription fees \$5.00. Submit payments to Sadie Morrison, Treasurer; 1283 Elizabeth Street, Denver, Colorado 80206. Request for exchange or for back numbers should be addressed to the Editor. Numbers 1-10 are \$1.50 per issue; 11 and continuing are \$1.25 per issue. All exchange publications should likewise be sent to the Editor's address.

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