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COVER PHOTO: Immature Black-legged Kittiwake photographed by Harold R. Holt, March 19, 1971 at Sloan's Lake, west Denver, Colorado. This bird was the third record for the state and is the first Colorado photo.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

June 12, 1973

Mr. David W. Lupton, Editor
Colorado Field Ornithologist
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Dear Dave,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to Dr. William A. Davis, retiring President of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, for the effort he put forth in establishing the Official Records Committee in 1972. Colorado has desperately needed a functioning body to review and pass on bird sightings for some time and thanks to Bill Davis' interest and insight into the need, we now have an operational Committee comprised of some of the most experienced field men in the state. In addition to providing the necessary impetus towards getting this endeavor off the ground, Dr. Davis also served as a Charter member on the Committee. His energy, interest and expertise will be sorely missed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists. I wish him much good fortune and good birding at his new location in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Jack Reddall
Chairman
CFO Official Records Committee
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

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ANNOUNCEMENT

New Board of Directors Member:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists have approved the addition of Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Professor of Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University at Fort Collins to the CFO Official Records Committee effective with Dr. Ryder's return to the state sometime in July of this year. Dr. Ryder will fill the vacancy left by Dr. William A. Davis, a charter member who has left the state and now resides in Tucson, Arizona.

Jack Reddall

OFFICIAL STATE LIST OF THE BIRDS OF COLORADO
AS OF JUNE 1, 1973

Compiled By
The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Official Records Committee

Prepared By
Jack Reddall, Chairman
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

This list contains 426 species arranged in accordance with the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Edition, 1957. While the Committee is fully aware of the recent publication in the April 1973 issue of The Auk (90:2, 411-419) of the 32nd Supplement to the Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, it voted not to adopt the numerous changes at this time. The Committee felt that a complete change should be made at the time that the entire Check-list is reissued (Sixth Edition) some time in the future.

Of the total of 426 species, 395 are currently represented by specimens located in museum collections; 9 are included on the basis of recognizable photographs; and the remaining 22 are accepted on the basis of sight reports. It should be emphasized however, that the Committee is currently reviewing thirteen of the species included on the list, and based on additional research, it is possible that some, and possibly all, could be ruled invalid and dropped from the list. On the other hand, the Committee has received documentation on eight new species not presently included on the state list, and it is currently deliberating whether to accept any or all as additions. All Committee decisions will be published in forthcoming issues of the Colorado Field Ornithologist.

Those species (97) occurring casually or accidentally in Colorado are followed by a double asterisk **. Observations of any of these birds should be reported, along with complete documentation, to the Official Records Committee. Rare or unusual bird reports should be sent to Mr. Jack Reddall, Chairman, Official Records Committee, 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110.

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
LOONS			
Common Loon	X		
Yellow-billed Loon **	X		
Arctic Loon **	X		
Red-throated Loon **	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
GREBES			
Red-necked Grebe **	X		
Horned Grebe	X		
Eared Grebe	X		
Western Grebe	X		
Pied-billed Grebe	X		
PELICANS			
White Pelican	X		
Brown Pelican **	X		
CORMORANTS			
Double-crested Cormorant	X		
Olivaceous Cormorant **	X		
DARTERS			
Anhinga **	X		
HERONS AND BITTERNs			
Great Blue Heron	X		
Green Heron		X	
Little Blue Heron **			X
Cattle Egret		X	
Reddish Egret **	X		
Common Egret	X		
Snowy Egret	X		
Louisiana Heron **		X	
Black-crowned Night Heron	X		
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	X		
Least Bittern **	X		
American Bittern	X		
STORKS AND WOOD IBISES			
Wood Ibis **	X		
IBISES AND SPOONBILLS			
Glossy Ibis **	X		
White-faced Ibis	X		
Roseate Spoonbill **	X		
SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS			
Whistling Swan	X		
Trumpeter Swan **	X		
Canada Goose	X		
Brant **		X	
Black Brant **		X	
White-fronted Goose	X		
Snow Goose	X		
Blue Goose	X		
Ross' Goose	X		
Mallard	X		
Mexican Duck **	X		
Black Duck	X		
Mottled Duck **	X		
Gadwall	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Pintail	X		
Green-winged Teal	X		
Blue-winged Teal	X		
Cinnamon Teal	X		
European Widgeon **			X
American Widgeon	X		
Shoveler	X		
Wood Duck	X		
Redhead	X		
Ring-necked Duck	X		
Canvasback	X		
Greater Scaup	X		
Lesser Scaup	X		
Common Goldeneye	X		
Barrow's Goldeneye	X		
Bufflehead	X		
Oldsquaw	X		
Harlequin Duck **	X		
Common Eider **			X
White-winged Scoter	X		
Surf Scoter	X		
Common Scoter **	X		
Ruddy Duck	X		
Hooded Merganser	X		
Common Merganser	X		
Red-breasted Merganser	X		
AMERICAN VULTURES			
Turkey Vulture	X		
HAWKS, KITES, HARRIERS AND EAGLES			
Swallow-tailed Kite **	X		
Mississippi Kite			X
Goshawk	X		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X		
Cooper's Hawk	X		
Red-tailed Hawk	X		
Harlan's Hawk	X		
Red-shouldered Hawk **	X		
Broad-winged Hawk	X		
Swainson's Hawk	X		
Rough-legged Hawk	X		
Ferruginous Hawk	X		
Golden Eagle	X		
Bald Eagle	X		
Marsh Hawk	X		
OSPREYS			
Osprey	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
CARACARAS AND FALCONS			
Caracara **	X		
Gyr Falcon **	X		
Prairie Falcon	X		
Peregrine Falcon	X		
Pigeon Hawk	X		
Sparrow Hawk	X		
GROUSE AND PTARMIGANS			
Blue Grouse	X		
Ruffed Grouse **			X
White-tailed Ptarmigan	X		
Greater Prairie Chicken	X		
Lesser Prairie Chicken	X		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	X		
Sage Grouse	X		
QUAILS AND PHEASANTS			
Bobwhite	X		
Scaled Quail	X		
Gambel's Quail	X		
Ring-necked Pheasant	X		
Chukar	X		
TURKEYS			
Turkey	X		
CRANES			
Whooping Crane **	X		
Sandhill Crane	X		
RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS			
Virginia Rail	X		
Sora	X		
Yellow Rail **	X		
Purple Gallinule **	X		
Common Gallinule **			X
American Coot	X		
PLOVERS AND TURNSTONES			
Semipalmated Plover	X		
Piping Plover **	X		
Snowy Plover	X		
Killdeer	X		
Mountain Plover	X		
American Golden Plover	X		
Black-bellied Plover	X		
Ruddy Turnstone	X		
WOODCOCK, SNIBE AND SANDPIPERS			
American Woodcock **	X		
Common Snipe	X		
Long-billed Curlew	X		
Whimbrel	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Eskimo Curlew **	X		
Upland Plover	X		
Spotted Sandpiper	X		
Solitary Sandpiper	X		
Willet	X		
Greater Yellowlegs	X		
Lesser Yellowlegs	X		
Knot	X		
Pectoral Sandpiper	X		
White-rumped Sandpiper	X		
Baird's Sandpiper	X		
Least Sandpiper	X		
Dunlin	X		
Short-billed Dowitcher **	X		
Long-billed Dowitcher	X		
Stilt Sandpiper	X		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X		
Western Sandpiper	X		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper **	X		
Marbled Godwit	X		
Hudsonian Godwit **	X		
Sanderling	X		
AVOCETS AND STILTS			
American Avocet	X		
Black-necked Stilt	X		
PHALAROPES			
Red Phalarope **	X		
Wilson's Phalarope	X		
Northern Phalarope	X		
JAEGERS AND SKUAS			
Pomarine Jaeger **	X		
Parasitic Jaeger **			X
Long-tailed Jaeger **	X		
GULLS AND TERNS			
Glaucous Gull	X		
Iceland Gull **	X		
Herring Gull	X		
California Gull	X		
Ring-billed Gull	X		
Laughing Gull **			X
Franklin's Gull	X		
Bonaparte's Gull	X		
Ivory Gull **	X		
Black-legged Kittiwake **	X		
Sabine's Gull	X		
Forster's Tern	X		
Common Tern **	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Least Tern **	X		
Black Tern	X		
AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS			
Ancient Murrelet **	X		
PIGEONS AND DOVES			
Band-tailed Pigeon	X		
Rock Dove	X		
White-winged Dove **	X		
Mourning Dove	X		
Inca Dove **			X
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS AND ANIS			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X		
Black-billed Cuckoo	X		
Roadrunner	X		
BARN OWLS			
Barn Owl	X		
TYPICAL OWLS			
Screech Owl	X		
Flammulated Owl	X		
Great Horned Owl	X		
Snowy Owl	X		
Pygmy Owl	X		
Burrowing Owl	X		
Barred Owl **	X		
Spotted Owl **	X		
Long-eared Owl	X		
Short-eared Owl	X		
Boreal Owl **	X		
Saw-whet Owl	X		
GOATSUCKERS			
Whip-poor-will **	X		
Poor-will	X		
Common Nighthawk	X		
Lesser Nighthawk **	X		
SWIFTS			
Black Swift	X		
Chimney Swift	X		
White-throated Swift	X		
HUMMINGBIRDS			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	X		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X		
Rufous Hummingbird	X		
Calliope Hummingbird	X		
Rivoli's Hummingbird **	X		
Blue-throated Hummingbird **		X	

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
KINGFISHERS			
Belted Kingfisher	X		
WOODPECKERS			
Yellow-shafted Flicker	X		
Red-shafted Flicker	X		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X		
Red-headed Woodpecker	X		
Lewis' Woodpecker	X		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X		
Williamson's Sapsucker	X		
Hairy Woodpecker	X		
Downy Woodpecker	X		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	X		
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	X		
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS			
Eastern Kingbird	X		
Western Kingbird	X		
Cassin's Kingbird	X		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	X		
Great Crested Flycatcher **	X		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	X		
Olivaceous Flycatcher **	X		
Eastern Phoebe	X		
Black Phoebe **		X	
Say's Phoebe	X		
Traill's Flycatcher	X		
Least Flycatcher	X		
Hammond's Flycatcher	X		
Dusky Flycatcher	X		
Gray Flycatcher	X		
Western Flycatcher	X		
Eastern Wood Pewee **	X		
Western Wood Pewee	X		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X		
Vermillion Flycatcher **	X		
LARKS			
Horned Lark	X		
SWALLOWS			
Violet-green Swallow	X		
Tree Swallow	X		
Bank Swallow	X		
Rough-winged Swallow	X		
Barn Swallow	X		
Cliff Swallow	X		
Purple Martin **	X		
JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS			
Gray Jay	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Blue Jay	X		
Steller's Jay	X		
Scrub Jay	X		
Black-billed Magpie	X		
Common Raven	X		
White-necked Raven	X		
Common Crow	X		
Pinyon Jay	X		
Clark's Nutcracker	X		
TITMICE, VERDINS AND BUSHTITS			
Black-capped Chickadee	X		
Mountain Chickadee	X		
Plain Titmouse	X		
Common Bushtit	X		
NUTHATCHES			
White-breasted Nuthatch	X		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X		
Pygmy Nuthatch	X		
CREEPERS			
Brown Creeper	X		
DIPPERS			
Dipper	X		
WRENS			
House Wren	X		
Winter Wren	X		
Bewick's Wren	X		
Carolina Wren **	X		
Long-billed Marsh Wren	X		
Short-billed Marsh Wren **	X		
Canyon Wren	X		
Rock Wren	X		
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS			
Mockingbird	X		
Catbird	X		
Brown Thrasher	X		
Long-billed Thrasher **	X		
Bendire's Thrasher **	X		
Curve-billed Thrasher	X		
Sage Thrasher	X		
THRUSHES			
Robin	X		
Varied Thrush			X
Wood Thrush	X		
Hermit Thrush	X		
Swainson's Thrush	X		
Gray-cheeked Thrush **			X
Veery	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Eastern Bluebird	X		
Western Bluebird	X		
Mountain Bluebird	X		
Townsend's Solitaire	X		
GNATCATCHERS AND KINGLETS			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	X		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X		
PIPITS AND WAGTAILS			
Water Pipit	X		
Sprague's Pipit **			X
WAXWINGS			
Bohemian Waxwing	X		
Cedar Waxwing	X		
SILKY FLYCATCHERS			
Phainopepla **		X	
SHRIKES			
Northern Shrike	X		
Loggerhead Shrike	X		
STARLINGS			
Starling	X		
VIREOS			
Bell's Vireo	X		
Gray Vireo	X		
Yellow-throated Vireo **			X
Solitary Vireo	X		
Red-eyed Vireo	X		
Philadelphia Vireo **			X
Warbling Vireo	X		
WOOD WARBLERS			
Black-and-white Warbler	X		
Prothonotary Warbler **	X		
Swainson's Warbler **	X		
Worm-eating Warbler	X		
Golden-winged Warbler **			X
Tennessee Warbler	X		
Orange-crowned Warbler	X		
Nashville Warbler	X		
Virginia's Warbler	X		
Lucy's Warbler **	X		
Parula Warbler	X		
Yellow Warbler	X		
Magnolia Warbler	X		
Cape May Warbler **		X	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	X		
Myrtle Warbler	X		
Audubon's Warbler	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Black-throated Gray Warbler	X		
Townsend's Warbler	X		
Black-throated Green Warbler	X		
Cerulean Warbler **	X		
Blackburnian Warbler **			X
Yellow-throated Warbler **	X		
Grace's Warbler	X		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X		
Bay-breasted Warbler **			X
Blackpoll Warbler	X		
Pine Warbler **	X		
Palm Warbler	X		
Ovenbird	X		
Northern Waterthrush	X		
Connecticut Warbler **	X		
MacGillivray's Warbler	X		
Yellowthroat	X		
Yellow-breasted Chat	X		
Hooded Warbler **	X		
Wilson's Warbler	X		
Canada Warbler **	X		
American Redstart	X		
Painted Redstart **			X
WEAVER FINCHES			
House Sparrow	X		
MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES			
Bobolink	X		
Eastern Meadowlark **			X
Western Meadowlark	X		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X		
Red-winged Blackbird	X		
Orchard Oriole	X		
Hooded Oriole **			X
Scott's Oriole **			X
Baltimore Oriole	X		
Bullock's Oriole	X		
Rusty Blackbird	X		
Brewer's Blackbird	X		
Common Grackle	X		
Brown-headed Cowbird	X		
TANAGERS			
Western Tanager	X		
Scarlet Tanager	X		
Summer Tanager	X		
Hepatic Tanager **			X
GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS			
Cardinal	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X		
Black-headed Grosbeak	X		
Blue Grosbeak	X		
Indigo Bunting	X		
Lazuli Bunting	X		
Painted Bunting **	X		
Dickcissel	X		
Evening Grosbeak	X		
Purple Finch **	X		
Cassin's Finch	X		
House Finch	X		
Pine Grosbeak	X		
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	X		
Black Rosy Finch	X		
Brown-capped Rosy Finch	X		
Common Redpoll	X		
Pine Siskin	X		
American Goldfinch	X		
Lesser Goldfinch	X		
Red Crossbill	X		
White-winged Crossbill	X		
Green-tailed Towhee	X		
Rufous-sided Towhee	X		
Brown Towhee	X		
Lark Bunting	X		
Savannah Sparrow	X		
Grasshopper Sparrow	X		
Baird's Sparrow **	X		
Le Conte's Sparrow **	X		
Sharp-tailed Sparrow **	X		
Vesper Sparrow	X		
Lark Sparrow	X		
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	X		
Cassin's Sparrow	X		
Black-throated Sparrow	X		
Sage Sparrow	X		
White-winged Junco	X		
Slate-colored Junco	X		
Oregon Junco	X		
Gray-headed Junco	X		
Tree Sparrow	X		
Chipping Sparrow	X		
Clay-colored Sparrow	X		
Brewer's Sparrow	X		
Field Sparrow	X		
Harris' Sparrow	X		
White-crowned Sparrow	X		
Golden-crowned Sparrow **	X		

<u>VERNACULAR NAME</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PHOTOGRAPH</u>	<u>SIGHT REPORT</u>
White-throated Sparrow	X		
Fox Sparrow	X		
Lincoln's Sparrow	X		
Swamp Sparrow	X		
Song Sparrow	X		
McCown's Longspur	X		
Lapland Longspur	X		
Chestnut-collared Longspur	X		
Snow Bunting	X		

Editor's Note: The following introduced bird species have also been released in Colorado. Their current status, however, is questionable -- Mute Swan, California Quail, Mountain Quail, Gray Partridge, Red-legged Partridge, Pale-spotted Tinamou, and Whitewing Pheasant.

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A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO DENVER AND EASTERN COLORADO

by

James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt

L & P Photography

Box 19401

Denver, Colorado 80219

\$3.00

EARLY RECORDS OF BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN COLORADO

Allegra Collister
812 Park Lane -C
Longmont, Colorado 80501

As a historical footnote to recently published records of the Blue-throated Hummingbird in Colorado (Colorado Field Ornithologist 9:27,28; 15:20,21), it appears that earlier observations should be duly noted. Observers were Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Allsebrook, of Boulder, Colorado highly respected members of Boulder Bird Club, and owners of a rustic mountain home five miles southwest of Estes Park.

In an article "Hummingbirds by the Dozen" (Audubon Magazine 65(4), July-August 1963), Mr. Allsebrook describes the activity at their syrup feeders, when 20-30 Broad-tails at once "buzzed around like a swarm of bees". He tells how they came to recognize individual birds, by disarrangement of feathers or some other irregularity.

He then recounts the story of a surprise visitor, a female Blue-throated Hummingbird, that on September 1, 1958 came to their feeders five times. He described her as follows: "This bird was a full inch longer than any hummingbird we had seen at our feeders in five years, with darkish gray breast and big white patches at the outer corners of her long tail". He goes on to say "The most notable characteristic as she sat at our feeder only five or six feet away, was the presence of the white lines bordered by black on her cheeks".

Mr. Allsebrook discussed the observation with the curator of the University of Colorado Museum, and with naturalists at Rocky Mountain National Park. No previous record could be found.

We are indebted to "Birds of Colorado", Bailey and Niedrach, 1965 (under Rivoli's Hummingbird) for additional sightings of the Blue-throated Hummingbird by Mr. Allsebrook. One appeared for three visits between August 9 and 30, 1959; one came several times September 5-6, 1959. By 1965 several Rivoli's observations had been recorded, and Dr. Bailey quite naturally assumed that the Allsebrook birds were also of this species, since no records of the Blue-throated existed for the state.

Mr. Allsebrook refused to admit to error in identification. Shortly before his death, he gave a program for Boulder Bird Club and told in detail about seeing the Blue-throated Hummingbird. Among those present were Miss Louise Hering and Mrs. Venola Bivans, both of whom testify to Mr. Allsebrook's high intelligence and accuracy as an observer. They believe him completely.

Whether or not the "Official Records Committee" can accept one-observer reports has not yet been decided, and in this instance does not really matter. As Mr. Allsebrook stated in Audubon Magazine, "She was a Blue-throated Hummingbird, all right, and perhaps the first sighted in Colorado".

THE CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (Toxostoma curvirostre)--ITS STATUS IN
COLORADO AND THE FIRST RECORDED NEST FOR THE STATE

Hugh E. Kingery
10 Emerson Street, #503
Denver, Colorado 80218

Prompted by the discovery in 1972 of a Curve-billed Thrasher nest in Baca County, this article reviews the records of Curve-billed Thrashers in Colorado. The information suggests that the bird has spread further into the state in the past ten years, and has been seen throughout the year.

At the time Bailey and Niedrach published "Birds of Colorado" in 1965, the Curve-billed Thrasher's presence in the state rested upon one specimen taken March 25, 1951 near Granada, Prowers County*. Since that time numerous observations have borne out the prediction of Bailey and Niedrach that the birds should range regularly into Baca County and perhaps elsewhere. Following are the recent records known to me through May 6, 1973.

Most localities in which observers have found the birds repeatedly (mainly Crowley and Baca counties) have growing the common cactus of southeastern Colorado, Opuntia arborescens. It grows commonly from a point north of Pueblo south and southeast to the corner of the state. This cactus has a variety of common names: Dave Griffiths calls it cholla; Harold Holt calls it branch cactus; I call it staghorn; Weber in "Rocky Mountain Flora" calls it shrub cactus, and Pesman in "Meet the Natives" calls it candelabra cactus. By any name it is a shrubby, erect, branching cactus, up to six feet tall and seems to constitute one of the primary habitat requirements for Colorado's Curve-billed Thrashers.

COLORADO RECORDS

Adams County. May 15, 1967: Lois Webster, conducting a junior high class to Barr Lake, saw one at 10:30 A.M. along a canal feeding into the south side of the lake. With a Brown Thrasher, the bird (and the Brown Thrasher) had remained there to 4:30 P.M. when she returned, but both had disappeared two hours later. Second record for Colorado.

Morgan County. December 26, 1972: one bird discovered near Fort Morgan on the Weldona Christmas Count by Doug Stotz and seen by Donald Thatcher and all of the six other observers on the count. The bird perched in a low branch in a cottonwood grove along the South Platte River. Most northern Colorado record.

*Editor's Note: The statement in Colorado Field Ornithologist No. 16, June 1973, p. 24 that there are no specimens of the Curve-billed Thrasher for Colorado is in error.

Crowley County. February 22, 1969: one bird near Olney Springs by Richard DeHaven (Colorado Field Ornithologist No. 6, p. 27). December 24, 1972: three birds near Olney Springs, in cactus close to road by Dave Griffiths and Steve Larson. January 6, 1973: two birds, same location by Dave Griffiths and Steve Larson. January 12, 1973: one bird, same location by Steve Larson and Van Truan. February 24, 1973: seven birds (at least), same location on DFO field trip.

Pueblo County. June 6, 1970: one bird twenty miles southeast of Pueblo on Olson Road east of 43rd Lane. Observed at the south end of a catalpa grove known as the Olson Road Tree Grove by Claire and Dannette Griffiths. November 21, 1970: one on Bacalite Mesa, ten miles northeast of Pueblo by Dave Griffiths. (This corrects the date in Colorado Field Ornithologist No. 11, p. 18). November 27, 1971: two birds, Bacalite Mesa, three-quarters of a mile north of the November 21, 1970 sighting in much less dense cover. The birds were followed for a half mile through medium cover of grass and cholla cactus by Dave Griffiths. December 4, 1971: one bird, Bacalite Mesa by Dave Griffiths and David Silverman. December 12, 1971: one bird in rabbit brush on Olson Road west of 40th Lane, photographed by Jerry Ligon. January 23, 1972: one bird, Olson Road Tree Grove by David Silverman. February 6, 1972: one bird, Olson Road Tree Grove by David Silverman. April, 1972: two birds, Boone, by Robert and Lois Wolfe.

Las Animas County. April 17, 1971: one bird fifteen miles east of Trinidad by Van Truan.

Otero County. June 8, 1970: one near Delhi, southwest of Timpas by Robert F. Buttery.

Baca County. June 22, 1968: 25 miles east of Campo, one near a gravel pit by Lois Webster. June 26, 1968: one, same place by Lois Webster. October 5, 1968: on an Opuntia arborescens covered plain adjacent to Carrizo Canyon, twenty miles southwest of Pritchett, five birds drifted from cactus to cactus, flashing their red eyes, seen by Hugh Kingery. October 6, 1968: three thrashers lurked along a Carrizo Canyon wall, by Hugh Kingery. April 1, 1969: one, Cottonwood Canyon, near Carrizo Canyon by Lois Webster. June 4, 1969: one, Carrizo Canyon by Robert F. Buttery. June 6, 1969: two, Carrizo Canyon by Lois Webster.

May 15, 1970: two associated with Opuntia cactus, at Carrizo Canyon. Suspected of nesting, from their behavior--they were carrying material in their bills, either food or nesting material--but no nest found, seen by Paul Julian and Hugh Kingery. May 16, 1970: one again observed in the Carrizo Canyon area by Paul Julian and Hugh Kingery. May 16, 1970: one observed on Cimarron River, 1/2 mile from Kansas border by Thompson Marsh. February 27, 1972: one bird, south of La Junta on the Comanche National Grassland (possibly Otero or Las Animas counties). Seen by David Silverman, Babette Cranson, and William Anderson.

May 7, 1972: Paul and Lesley Julian and I found none at Carrizo Canyon, but the day after visiting the area we did find two along the bottomlands of the Cimarron River, about 15 miles west of the Kansas line. We followed the first bird as it drifted ahead of us along a line of tamarisk (Tamarix pentanta or Tamarix gallica, Weber and Pesman respectively). Another bird appeared after we had followed the first for 200 yards. The first one then flew back, and Paul and Lesley followed it. I stood in a clearing between two rows of tamarisk, next to an Opuntia arborescens, about six feet in height, watching the agitated second bird across the clearing in a tamarisk.

Looking nearby, I noticed two nest-like structures in the cactus, about 3 1/2 feet and 4 feet from the ground. I then noticed a third nest structure 4 1/2 feet from the ground, closer to the center of the cactus than the other two. This latter nest contained three bluish-green eggs spotted lightly all over with brown. The nest was made of twigs, about three inches deep and six to eight inches from the rim to bottom of the cup. The two "false nests" each contained a cactus tip.

The nest was located along the Cimarron River bottom, a sand channel with vegetation comprised of cottonwood trees, strings of tamarisk, and sagebrush. The immediate nest area consisted of several thickets of tamarisk on either side of a large clearing, with two isolated cottonwoods over 100 feet away. For several acres around the nest site, staghorn was the only cactus. Sagebrush grew south and west of the territory which the thrashers occupied. To the north lay the sandy river bottom and several hundred yards to the east was a cottonwood grove. The birds ranged over a large territory--two to five acres at least.

May 6, 1973: two together, Cottonwood Canyon, by Hugh Kingery and Doug Stotz.

The abundance of observations of the Curve-billed Thrasher in Baca, Crowley, and Pueblo counties, as well as the two sightings in the two northern counties suggest that this species has spread north in recent years and has become a permanent resident of the cactus covered southeastern Colorado plains.

The author wishes to thank Dave Griffiths for compiling and furnishing the Pueblo area records and to thank Paul and Lesley Julian for reviewing the manuscript.

COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNT FOR 1972

compiled by

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Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Full details of twenty-one of the twenty-four 1972 Colorado Christmas Counts appear in American Birds, Volume 27, Number 2, April 1973, pages 463-470.

Black Forest -- December 30, 1972. Richard Beidleman, compiler. 9 observers. 34 species, about 1273 individuals. Of note are 147 White-winged Juncos. Two additional species were seen in the area count period, but not on count day, including White-winged Crossbill.

Bonny Reservoir -- January 1, 1973. Paul Julian, compiler. 9 observers. 59 species, and 1 additional hybrid flicker; about 25,075 individuals. Interesting sightings include 3 Goshawks, 1 Saw-whet Owl (photographed), 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10 Brown-headed Cowbirds, and 182 Harris' Sparrows. One additional species was seen during the count period but not on count day.

Boulder -- December 16, 1972. Paul Julian, compiler. 53 observers. 85 species, and 1 additional hybrid flicker; about 18,675 individuals. Of note: 1 Blue Grouse, 1 Saw-whet Owl, and 1 White-throated Sparrow. One additional species was seen in the area count period, but not on count day: Winter Wren.

Colorado Springs -- December 17, 1972. Elinor Wills, compiler. 44 observers. 75 species, and 1 additional hybrid flicker; about 7,024 individuals. Of note are 2 Pigeon Hawks, 1 Pygmy Owl, 115 Scrub Jays, 1 Plain Titmouse, 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird (new to the count), 5 Rusty Blackbirds, and 1 Common Grackle. Two additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day, including Myrtle Warbler.

Denver -- December 16, 1972. David Hutchinson, compiler. 83 observers. 95 species; about 17,073 individuals. Interesting sightings include 1 Pygmy Owl, 1 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (new to the count), 111 Scrub Jays, 1728 Bohemian Waxwings, 5 Fox Sparrows, 1 Lincoln's Sparrow, and 1 Lapland Longspur (new to the count). One additional species, Greater Scaup, was seen during the area count period but not on count day.

Durango -- December 30, 1972. Richard Stransky, compiler. 15 observers. 48 species; about 3000 individuals. Of note: 1 Swainson's Hawk (no details), 9 Bald Eagles, 14 Common Snipe, 106 Scrub Jays, and 1 Pine Grosbeak. 7 additional species were seen in the count period, but not on count day, including Common Redpoll.

Evergreen-Idaho Springs -- December 17, 1972. Douglas Stotz, compiler. 33 observers. 44 species; about 3,115 individuals. Of note are 100 Clark's Nutcrackers, and 1 Loggerhead Shrike. Five additional species were seen in the area count period, but not on count day.

Fort Collins -- December 30, 1972. Gilbert Findlay, compiler. 31 observers. 68 species; about 16,599 individuals. Interesting sightings include 2 Cedar Waxwings (with 905 Bohemian Waxwings), 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, and 1 Lapland Longspur. Three additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day, including Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 female, since November).

Grand Junction -- December 17, 1972. Lorna Gustafson, compiler. 28 observers. 84 species; about 23,211 individuals. Of note: 1 Black-crowned Night Heron, 1 Wood Duck, 2 Goshawks, 1 Pigeon Hawk, 1 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Pygmy Owl, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Dipper, 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 Mockingbird, 2 Audubon's Warblers, 1 Vesper Sparrow, and 1 White-winged Junco.

Gunnison -- December 24, 1972. Sidney Hyde, compiler. 13 observers. 49 species; about 3,365 individuals. Of note are 8 Sage Grouse, 1 Sora, 1 Mockingbird, and 11 Lapland Longspur. Five additional species were seen in the area count period, but not on count day, including Peregrine Falcon and Short-eared Owl.

Hotchkiss -- December 16, 1972. Theodora Colborn, compiler. 3 observers. 58 species; about 2,034 individuals. Interesting sightings include 1 Pygmy Owl, 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren, and 10 Western Bluebirds. Nine additional species were seen in the area count period, but not on count day, including Pigeon Hawk, Mourning Dove, and Mockingbird.

Lake Isabel -- December 16, 1972. Van Truan, compiler. 9 observers. 41 species; about 1,165 individuals. Of note are 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and 15 Black Rosy Finches.

Longmont -- December 22, 1972. Ronald Harden, compiler. 22 observers. 67 species and 1 additional hybrid flicker; about 11,440 individuals. Of note: 159 Pinon Jays, 8 Clark's Nutcrackers, 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird, 3 Rusty Blackbirds, 75 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, 2 Lesser Goldfinches, 14 Harris' Sparrows, and 1 White-throated Sparrow. Four additional species were seen in the count period, but not on count day, including Pigeon Hawk.

McCoy -- December 29, 1972. Mrs. Kenneth Ewing, compiler. 2 observers. 22 species; about 544 individuals. Of note are 40 Pinon Jays, and 1 immature Harris' Sparrow (at feeder 2 weeks). This report is not included in American Birds.

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge -- December 21, 1972. Stanley Cornelius, compiler. 2 observers. 36 species; about 21,032 individuals. Interesting sightings include 1 Goshawk, 15 Bald Eagles, and 6 Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

Nunn -- December 28, 1972. Clait Braun, compiler. 21 observers. 29 species; about 2,442 individuals. Of note are 2 Blue Jays, 5 Mountain Chickadees, 1 Townsend's Solitaire, and 1 American Goldfinch.

Pike's Peak -- December 31, 1972. Libby Goodwin and Hugh Kingery, compilers. 31 observers. 50 species; about 3,224 individuals. Of note: 4 Common Snipe (new to the count), 1 Varied Thrush (since November, new to the count), 1 Mountain Bluebird (male, new to the count), and 2 Harris' Sparrows (new to the count).

Pueblo -- December 23, 1972. Claire Griffiths, compiler. 17 observers. 74 species, and 1 additional hybrid flicker; about 21,162 individuals. Of note: 2 Pigeon Hawks, 2 Bobwhite, (4 ?) Virginia Rails, 40 Mourning Doves, 10 Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, 41 Scrub Jays, 19 Bewick's Wrens, 38 Rusty Blackbirds, 2 Green-tailed Towhees, 13 Brown Towhees, and 2 White-throated Sparrows.

Red Feather Lakes -- January 1, 1973. Gustav Swanson, compiler. 34 observers. 22 species; about 1,504 individuals. Interesting species include 1 Pine Grosbeak, and 2 Snow Buntings (photographed). This report is not included in American Birds--consult Ptarmigan, Vol. 4, No. 1, January 1973 for details.

Rocky Mountain National Park -- December 16, 1972. Warner Reeser and John Douglass, compilers. 18 observers. 42 species; about 1,181 individuals. Of note are 2 White-tailed Ptarmigans, 41 Dippers, 1 Harris' Sparrow, and 2 White-throated Sparrows. Three additional species were seen in the area count period, but not on count day, including California Gull.

Spanish Peaks -- December 17, 1972. Van Truan, compiler. 7 observers. 34 species; about 719 individuals. Of note are 1 White-winged Crossbill, and 4 Harris' Sparrows.

Weldona-Fort Morgan -- December 26, 1972. Donald Thatcher, compiler. 8 observers. 42 species; about 2,461 individuals. Of note: 1 Clark's Nutcracker, 1 Curve-billed Thrasher, and 2 Cedar Waxwings. One additional species was seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Westcliffe -- December 20, 1972. Van Truan, compiler. 2 observers. 35 species; about 614 individuals. Of note is 1 Harris' Sparrow.

Yuma -- December 16, 1972. Robert E. Glover, compiler. 2 observers. 10 species; about 455 individuals. This report is not included in American Birds--species observed similar to Nunn, Colorado.

COLORADO SPRING COUNT FOR 1973

compiled by

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

Baca County -- May 4-6, 1973. Hugh Kingery, compiler. 6 observers. 156 species; about 4,812 individuals. Of note: 1 Green Heron, 4 Mississippi Kites, 2 Turkeys, 12 Lesser Prairie Chickens, 3 Mountain Plovers, 4 Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, 7 Ash-throated Flycatchers, 2 Curve-billed Thrashers, 2 Parula Warblers, 1 Golden-winged Warbler, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 2 Townsend's Warblers, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 32 Grasshopper Sparrows, 12 Cassin's Sparrows, and 9 Rufous-crowned Sparrows. (Leaves not out on cottonwoods; season probably 1-2 weeks late.) For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

Bonny Reservoir -- May 12, 1973. Jim Lane, compiler. 21 observers. 145 species; about 4,190 individuals. Of note: 3 Common Loons, 3 Green Herons, 1 Least Bittern (? Bonny Reservoir, or Boulder ?), 4 American Bitterns, 3 Ospreys, 3 Scaled Quail, 17 Stilt Sandpipers, 1 Ash-throated Flycatcher, 2 Eastern Bluebirds, 4 Bell's Vireos, 2 Worm-eating Warblers, 3 Tennessee Warblers, 2 Magnolia Warblers, 1 Townsend's Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 8 Blackpoll Warblers, 9 Bobolinks, 27 Orchard Orioles, 437 Clay-colored Sparrows, 16 Harris' Sparrows, and 2 White-throated Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting. Buff-breasted Sandpiper and White-necked Raven were among the species seen during the area count period, but not on count day.

Boulder -- May 12, 1973. Louise Hering, compiler. 44 observers. 146 species, and 1 additional hybrid jay; about 4,773 individuals. Of note are 6 White Pelicans, 1 Green Heron, 4 Barn Owls, 1 hybrid Blue Jay x Steller's Jay, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 4 Tennessee Warblers, 4 Nashville Warblers, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, and 2 Blackpoll Warblers. For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

Colorado Springs -- May 13, 1973. Elinor Wills (?), compiler. 49 observers. 170 species; about 10,926 individuals. Interesting sightings include 2 Whimbrels, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 1 Nashville Warbler, 1 Townsend's Warbler, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers, 1 Blackburnian Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 1 Palm Warbler, 1 Bobolink, 4 Rusty Blackbirds, 1 Cardinal, 5 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 20 Savannah Sparrows, 1 Field Sparrow, and 1 White-throated Sparrow. Four additional species were seen during the count week, but not on count day, including Green Heron. For additional observations consult Vol. 14, No. 10, June 1973 of Aikorns.

Denver -- (including Barr Lake, Littleton, Lower Bear Creek, Willow Springs, Red Rocks, Genesee Mountain and Waterton). May 12, 1973. David Hutchinson (?), compiler. 29 observers. 142 species; about 5,534 individuals. Of note are 60 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Green Heron, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 1 Blue Grouse, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 1 Tennessee Warbler, 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers, 1 Grace's Warbler, 4 Blackpoll Warblers, 1 Palm Warbler, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 8 Harris' Sparrows. Scarlet Tanager was seen during the area count period, but not on count day. For additional observations, consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

Fort Collins -- May 12, 1973. Larry Nell (?), compiler. Results of count not reported.

Grand Junction -- May 25, 1973. Lorna Gustafson, compiler. 8 observers. 93 species; about 5,667 individuals. Interesting observations include 1 Common Loon, 7 Snowy Egrets, 1 White-fronted Goose, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 14 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, 5 Ash-throated Flycatchers, and 4 Black-throated Sparrows.

La Veta -- May 27, 1973. Dave Griffiths, compiler. 5 observers. 63 species; about 997 individuals. Interesting sighting include 1 Mountain Plover, 75 Band-tailed Pigeons, 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and 3 Cedar Waxwings.

Longmont -- May 12, 1973. John Lindfors, compiler. 24 observers. 151 species; about 13,205 individuals. Of note: 12 White Pelicans, 1 Green Heron, 1 Little Blue Heron, 1 Wood Duck, 11 Semipalmated Plovers, 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 33 Whimbrels, 20 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 1 Townsend's Warbler, 1 Hooded Warbler, 3 Bobolinks, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 2 Fox Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 1, No. 3, May 1973 of the Dipper.

Park County -- May 12, 1973. Bob Gustafson (?), compiler. 3 observers. 71 species; about 1,106 individuals. Interesting sighting include 1 Goshawk and 5 Savannah Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

Pueblo -- May 12, 1973. Dave Griffiths, compiler. 20 observers. 192 species; about 14,758 individuals. Of note: 2 Common Loons, 77 White Pelicans, 1 Green Heron, 1 Common Egret, 3 Snowy Egrets, 1 Wood Duck, 1 Piping Plover, 1 Snowy Plover, 2 Mountain Plovers, 8 Black-necked Stilts, 10 Northern Phalaropes, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 2 Chimney Swifts, 2 Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, 1 Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1 Black Phoebe, 2 Curve-billed Thrashers, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 1 Parula Warbler, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 1 Townsend's Warbler, 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 7 Sage Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

Rocky Mountain National Park -- May 12, 1973. Warner Reeser, compiler. 12 observers. 69 species; about 1,678 individuals. Of note are 1 Goshawk, 1 Swainson's Hawk, 1 Common Nighthawk, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Pine Grosbeak, and 3 Fox Sparrows. A Hooded Warbler was observed during the area count period, but not on count day. For additional observations consult Vol. 8, No. 9, June 1973 of The Lark Bunting.

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"BIG DAY" PUEBLO STYLE

Van A. Truan
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Last year, 1972, while taking part in the Pueblo Audubon Club's spring bird count, Mike Shultz (Colorado Springs), my brother Joey Truan (Phoenix), and I conducted an American Birding Association "Big Day" count. We compiled a list of 110 species, with only the plains being covered. This led me to believe that if the foothills and mountains were also included, a total of 130 species could (with luck) be seen.

In March 1973, after I had set a date for my "Big Day" count, I began scouting around the territory noting the best areas for unusual species, the greatest numbers of species, and the typical common species.

The date for my "Big Day" count was May 11, 1973 starting at 1 A.M. Since Mike and Joey were not available, I decided to make it a one-man operation, with my mother, Mimi, along as companion and compiler. (She isn't too good at bird identification but she can spell their names!) We began our long day by heading west on Highway 76, calling for Poorwills and owls with my cassette. We managed to arouse 8 Poorwills and a few Great-horned Owls.

About five miles east of Wetmore I called out a Roadrunner, using a "cheap immitator call", namely me! There I also added Pinon Jays and Mountain Bluebirds. The Wetmore folks have many feeders, and one of them had attracted 60 plus Cassin's Finches, Lazuli and Indigo Buntings and Evening Grosbeaks. That was long before breakfast, too!

We continued on to Lake Isabel and amid the deep snow banks and snow covered trees I saw Williamson's and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Clark's Nutcrackers, Pygmy Nuthatches and Chipping Sparrows. I had Mom scanning for Dippers and she finally spotted one skipping along a stream.

We followed the "old" Lake Isabel Road (or should I say washboard!) to Rye. On this road I was lucky enough to spot a Worm-eating Warbler with some Mountain Chickadees. Rye also furnished Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Canyon Wrens, Western Bluebirds and Band-tailed Pigeons.

On Burnt Mill Road, heading east, I added Lewis' Woodpecker, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, two Black Phoebes, and Brown Towhees. We continued on to CF&I Lakes. There I counted four species of grebes, White-faced Ibis, Marbled Godwit, Bonaparte's and California Gulls, Sora and Virginia Rails, Eastern Kingbird, several species of warblers, and Cassin's Sparrows.

It was 11:30 A.M. when we finished at CF&I Lakes and I had 119 species. We drank a toast (with coffee!) because I was pretty sure, by then, that my goal of 130 species was possible.

My next stop, the Huerfano Reservoir, netted Lesser Scaup, Long-billed Curlew and Forster's Tern.

At the Olson Road "catalpa grove" I added Scaled Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Brown Thrashers and a Magnolia Warbler.

From the grove we proceeded northeast to the Rocky Ford State Wildlife Refuge. This area has excellent bird habitat. While Mom caught forty winks, I saw Bobwhites, several species of warblers, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Brewer's Sparrow.

Lake Cheraw was our next stop. There I found 1 Piping, 1 Snowy and 6 Black-bellied Plovers, 10 Black-necked Stilts, more than 30 Northern Phalaropes and 60 Black Terns. At this time, 5:30 P.M., I had seen 145 species! My compiler and I celebrated with a sno-cone!!

On the way to Sugar City, I sighted Pintail, White-necked Ravens, and Black-crowned Night Herons. At Lake Meredith there were 77 White Pelicans and on the way back to Pueblo, on Highway 96, south of Fowler, two Curve-billed Thrashers appeared. The pelicans and the thrashers were species number 154 and 155 for the day.

Several other areas could have been covered but my companion and I were bushed, so at 7:30 P.M. we called it a day.

We traveled 321 miles and covered most of the Pueblo area's best birding regions. Somehow, I missed a Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, White-breasted Nuthatch and Vesper Sparrow although they are usually common at that time of the year. I also missed the Black-chinned Hummingbird that feeds in my backyard!

I still can't believe that I saw 155 species on my "Big Day" count, and I didn't even count the Rock Dove. It was a challenge. It was a thrill. It was fantastic.

I hereby challenge anyone to beat my "Big Day"!!! It would be interesting to know if I just "lucked out", or if it really is that easy. And for good luck I'll even loan you my companion and compiler. She doesn't know birds but she sure can spell!

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compiled by

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