

NO. 19

MARCH 1974

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# **Colorado Field Ornithologist**



## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
MALLARD X PINTAIL HYBRIDS IN COLORADO, 1974	Clait E. Braun and Richard M. Hopper 2
AN ANALYSIS OF GREAT HORNED OWL PELLETS AND PREY SPECIES FROM SPRING CANYON, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO	William C. Shuster 4
SKIN LESIONS AND OTHER DEFECTS IN HOUSE FINCHES	Sam Gadd 9
REPORTS FROM THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE	Jack Reddall 11
1973 REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF RARE AND UNUSUAL RECORDS CONDUCTED BY THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE	Jack Reddall 19
CFO MEMBERSHIP LIST -- ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS	David W. Lupton 42

COVER PHOTO: Adult male Mallard x Pintail hybrid captured and banded by Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Dept. personnel at Chestnut Slough, Weld Co., Colorado on 22 January 1974. Photo courtesy of Clait E. Braun.

## MALLARD X PINTAIL HYBRIDS IN COLORADO, 1974

Clait E. Braun and Richard M. Hopper  
Division of Wildlife  
Colorado Game, Fish & Parks Department  
317 West Prospect Street  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Hybridization among various species of waterfowl is not uncommon, and is well documented especially in captive birds (Johnsgard 1960). Hybridization is most common in the Anatidae, with the Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) reportedly hybridizing with 45 other species of ducks, while the Pintail (Anas acuta) has been reported to hybridize with 25 species (Johnsgard 1965). The four instances of hybridization between the Mallard and the Pintail reported here thus cannot be considered rare occurrences, only as unusual.

From mid-January through mid-February 1974, over 7,000 ducks, mostly Mallards, were trapped in Colorado by personnel of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Of this total, 6,713 were newly banded and released. Banding locations varied from extreme eastern Colorado near Bonny Reservoir to Loma, in extreme western Colorado. Most bandings were east of the Continental Divide. During trapping operations, four obvious instances of hybridization between Mallards and Pintails were recorded. Two of the birds were banded and released with the other two being released unbanded. Both birds released unbanded were males and were caught at widely separated locations (near Weldona, Morgan County, on 27 January and near Loma, Mesa County, on 2 February). Photographs were obtained of the adult male captured and banded at Chestnut Slough, Weld County, on 22 January (see cover photo) and of the adult female captured and banded at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder County, on 19 January.

All four hybrids were intermediate in size between Mallards and Pintails, with Mallard characteristics predominating. Males were characterized by dark green feathers on the head, white feathers going higher on the sides of the head than typical of Mallards, and dark blue-green speculums bordered with buffy white above and white below. Tail feathers were typically Mallard in appearance, the feet were flesh colored, while bills were light blue. The lone female, while larger than normal Pintail females, was obviously smaller than female Mallards with which she was captured. The head and bill of this hybrid were

typical Pintail appearance, while the appearance of most feathers on the back and tail were Mallard in appearance. As with the males, the speculum was dark blue-green bordered with russet to buffy white above and white below. The feet of this bird were also flesh colored, unlike the normal orange to red-orange feet of Mallards or the light blue-gray feet of Pintails.

The significance of hybridization of Mallards and Pintails is unknown. Unbalanced sex ratios in Mallards wintering in Colorado and other states are common and this situation may lead male Mallards to actively court female Pintails. It is not known whether hybridization in wild populations is increasing or remaining at low levels. Our observations indicated that while hybrids are uncommon in Colorado, more instances were documented in post-season banding in 1974 than in previous years.

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#### BIRDS IN WESTERN COLORADO

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AN ANALYSIS OF GREAT HORNED OWL PELLETS AND PREY  
SPECIES FROM SPRING CANYON, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

William C. Shuster  
925 Glenmoor Street  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

LOCATION AND METHODS

Two pellet collections per week were made from March 25 to May 26, 1973. All pellets were taken from under four known roosts of a nesting pair of Great Horned Owls at Spring Canyon, two miles sw of Fort Collins in Larimer County, Colorado. As several other owl species have been reported in this area in the past years, it was important to positively identify the owl species making the pellets. During the collection period, three other owl species were observed at Spring Canyon (Lupton 1973). As a result, only roosts which were personally observed to be used by the two Great Horned Owls were selected as collection sites.

An assumption must be made that other owl species will not use these roosts and thereby leave pellets which could upset the data. Great Horned Owls will feed on just about any other owl species it encounters however, so the chances are slim that other owls will be near these roosts (Austing and Holt 1966).

Only fresh pellets were collected to insure that they were from the two owls observed and to prevent any deviation caused by seasonal prey changes in older pellets. Fresh pellets could be identified by the criteria set by Maser, Hammer and Anderson (1970): "All fresh pellets had a shiny coating and when a month or more old, they were rapidly broken down by larvae of a moth (Tineidae) which ate the mucus holding the pellets intact."

The pellet collections were put in separate plastic bags along with a tag showing date and location. Identification of the remains took place in the laboratory using Lechleitner's (1969) and Glass's (1973) keys for mammals. Five bird remains were found (one of which was a Black-billed Magpie found in the nest) and three were determined by their feathers.

## HABITAT

The nest and roost sites were all on an east-facing slope having scattered Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) as the overstory. The major shrubs were sagebrush (Artemisia spp.), juniper (Juniperus spp.), wheatgrass (Agropyron spp.), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), and prickly pear (Opuntia spp.). Approximately 30 yards east of the nest, the slope comes to an abrupt end as it meets a field. The vegetation here turns into grasses (Poa spp.) and (Carex spp.). With the nest situated by the edge of the slope, the owls had two distinct habitats to hunt in, thus increasing the number of prey species available.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The Great Horned Owls' diet is determined, to a great extent, by the species' population ratio found in the hunting territory. Selection of prey is also affected by its ease of capture and size, as the energy exerted to capture a small evasive animal would be inefficient and therefore detrimental for the owl (Errington 1932). Microtus ochrogaster evidently can be efficiently caught, as 48.9% of the prey identified was this species (see Table). This vole is found in areas with heavy vegetation where it can make runways and feed on the grasses and sedges present (Lechleitner 1969). No voles are present on the slope as there is insufficient cover. The voles are numerous in the fields which border the slope, however.

Rabbits (Sylvilagus spp.) are the third most common prey, but made up 71.3% of the biomass, making them the most important prey item. This figure could be somewhat misleading, due to the fact that the owls feed on only parts of the rabbit. It is safe to assume however, that rabbits were very important prey.

No wood rat (Neotoma spp.) remains were found in any of the pellets, despite their abundance in the area. Their presence was determined while running a small mammal trap line at Spring Canyon. I have no explanation for their absence unless it is due to the owls actively selecting against them, or that the owls were not feeding during the wood rats' time of activity.

The pellets varied in size from 31 to 69 mm. in length and 19 to 40 mm. in width. The average size was 45 by 29 mm.

Fifty-seven pellets were collected, comprised of 96 individual prey items, for an average of 1.7 animals per pellet. This number differs significantly from the average 3.4 calculated by Brodie and Maser (1967). Their higher value may be due to the higher average of small prey items such as deer mice (Peromyscus spp.) in their owl's diet and a corresponding decrease in the average of large prey items. While they found rabbits and hares to make up 7% of the diet, rabbits in this study comprised 13.2% of the diet.

Five bird remains were found during the study, three in pellets and two in the nest. The three bird remains in the pellets, which consisted only of feathers, were impossible to identify. For this reason, they may represent one or more birds. One of the pellets, however, had several small ( $\approx$  3 mm.) yellow feathers which may indicate that the prey species was a Western Meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta). The two prey items found in the nest, a Black-billed Magpie (Pica pica) found April 12, and a Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri) found April 15, were lying intact at the edge of the nest. The only indication of any attempt to feed on the birds in both cases was that several primary and secondary feathers were broken off. Both birds were gone from the nest on the following day. On April 13, however, (the day after the magpie was found in the nest) a pile of feathers near the nest site indicated that possibly either the owls or some other predator fed on the magpie. No remains of the Steller's Jay were found.

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Editors Note: The recent article (1974) "Feeding Ecology of Four Sympatric Owls" by Carl D. Marti, Condor 76 (1):45-61, may be of interest to the reader as this study pertains in part to the same geographical area of Colorado as the study above by Shuster.

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A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO DENVER AND EASTERN COLORADO

by

James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt

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ANALYSIS OF GREAT HORNED OWL PREY ITEMS  
FROM SPRING CANYON, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

Prey Species	Number Found	% in Diet	% Biomass <sup>1</sup>
<u>Microtus ochrogaster</u>	47	48.9	18.8
<u>Microtus pennsylvanicus</u>	1	1.0	*
<u>Microtus</u> (sp. unidentifiable)	4	4.1	*
<u>Peromyscus</u> (sp. unidentifiable)	17	17.8	2.0
<u>Sylvilagus</u> (sp. unidentifiable)	13	13.6	71.4
<u>Reithrodontomys megalotis</u>	7	7.2	.5
<u>Sciurus niger</u>	1	1.0	1.3
<u>Cynomys ludovicianus</u>	1	1.0	4.3
<u>Perognathus</u> (sp. unidentifiable)	2	2.4	.1
<u>Pica pica</u>	1	1.0 <sup>2</sup>	.9 <sup>2</sup>
<u>Cyanocitta stelleri</u>	1	1.0 <sup>2</sup>	.7 <sup>2</sup>
bird (sp. unidentifiable)	1	1.0	**
	96	100.0	100.0

\* calculated in with Microtus ochrogaster.

\*\* since species is unknown, % biomass is not calculated.

<sup>1</sup> Biomass of each species taken from averages computed by Armstrong (1972) and divided by total known biomass in diet.

<sup>2</sup> It is presumed that these prey items were consumed.



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## DUES

1974 membership dues in the Colorado Field Ornithologists (\$5.00) and institutional subscription fees for the quarterly Colorado Field Ornithologist (\$5.00) are due and payable to:

Miss Sadie Morrison, Treasurer  
Colorado Field Ornithologists  
1283 Elizabeth Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206

## SKIN LESIONS AND OTHER DEFECTS IN

## HOUSE FINCHES

Sam Gadd

927 South Skyway Boulevard  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906

In the past five years I have seen lesions, resembling tumors, of the mouth, bill-base, crown, wing, and anus in the flock of House Finches (Carpodacus mexicanus) that is present year-round in my garden. Also, several of the birds have had deformities of the bill, feet, and plumage; and several males have been strongly xanthic (yellow instead of red).

Among the diseased birds was a mature female with a large, dark, nodular lesion on the left wing. She was caught and killed by my cat. I submitted the bird to Morgan Berthrong, M.D., chief pathologist of Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs. (Dr. Berthrong, whose lifelong concern for wildlife began with a boyhood interest in falconry, often applies his special knowledge to the elucidation of avian disorders.) He gave the finch to his colleague R. M. Sherwin, M.D., for autopsy and histologic examination.

Dr. Sherwin found the mass measured 3 cm. by 3 cm. by 1.5 cm. on the upper surface of the wing and extended to the undersurface, where it was "yellow-white in color with superficial necrosis." (I quote, here and beyond, from his report.) The diagnosis was squamous cell carcinoma; i. e., a form of skin cancer. To be precise: sectioning showed that the epithelium was involved "diffusely," that there was "a downward proliferating epithelial basement layer with marked hyperplasia and atypia of the superficial layers of the epithelium," and that there was "a moderate amount of fibrous reaction but little inflammatory response."

Dr. Berthrong subsequently examined the material. While not disputing Dr. Sherwin's findings, he pointed out the possibility of pseudo-neoplasia; i. e., noncancerous epidermal overgrowth in response to inflammation.

Given the natural history of the House Finch, it is possible that some of the defects reported here are the result of an exceptional degree of inbreeding. With this in mind, I have looked for the same defects in three species whose natural history is similar to that of the House Finch:

the House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), which is present in my garden at all seasons; and Cassin's Finch (Carpodacus cassinii---the only congener of the House Finch resident in Colorado) and the Evening Grosbeak (Hesperiphona vespertina), both of which visit my garden in winter. In these species I have seen nothing resembling neoplastic disease and no gross structural anomalies; but my data may be inadequate rather than contradictory.

The seemingly high incidence of visible defects in House Finches is, I think, a matter worth pursuing by close examination of this species at feeders and banding stations. I would be grateful to receive evidence of lesions and deformities in Carpodacus mexicanus and to hear from anyone who cares to speculate about circumstances and causes.

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BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

by  
Allegra Collister

Publications Department  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
Denver, Colorado 80206

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## REPORTS FROM THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD----Calypte anna

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed written documentation reporting the occurrence of one adult male Anna's Hummingbird observed from August 28, 1966 through September 9, 1966 at Hotchkiss, Delta County. The observers were Mrs. Theodora Colborn, Edith Blide and Edgar Blide all of Hotchkiss. Based upon the reports received from these observers, the Official Records Committee has ruled to accept this record as a first for the State of Colorado and has approved the addition of the Anna's Hummingbird to the Official State List.

Chairman's Comment:

Mrs. Colborn and the Blides reported an adult male with "red forehead and red chin (when properly reflected) with a white patch under the chin; green back and wings which darkened near the tips; same size as a male Broad-tail. . . did not make the noise the Broad-tail does when it flies . . . ." The bird did not call during any of the periods of observation. The observers further reported that "the bird sat perched on wires and clothesline in backyard . . . The yard is well shaded by an old cottonwood with many flowers of all varieties . . . Ate at sugar feeders and spent much time flying in and out of an old apple tree which is covered with wood bine (Virginia Creeper)."

The Official Records Committee deliberated over this report for approximately eight months before voting to accept it as a first state record. While the documentation was fairly adequate, several members of the Committee were a bit sceptical, pointing out the possibility of an aberrant Broad-tail with a red forehead or a Broad-tail with lots of red pollen on its forehead (not an unlikely possibility). In addition, the descriptions did not entirely state how much of the forehead was actually red. However, the Committee ultimately voted in favor of acceptance and the record constitutes a first for the state.

It is interesting to note that American Birds, October 1973, Volume 27, Number 5 carries an article on the range expansion of Anna's Hummingbird by Dale A. Zimmerman. On pages 829 and 830, Mr. Zimmerman

writes, "An Anna's Hummingbird was reported from Durango, Colorado, by the late Oppie Reames, a veteran hummingbird observer, June 21, 1970 (Scott, 1970: p. 703)".. Zimmerman was unaware of the Hotchkiss report of 1966. The record for the 1970 sighting at Durango is currently being reviewed by the Committee and if accepted will constitute only the second record for Colorado. As pointed out in the Zimmerman article, the Anna's Hummingbird was considered as essentially a California species, restricted to that state and to adjacent northern Baja California as a breeding bird, wandering in winter to Arizona. However the range of this species has evidently changed much over the years and has now been reported from Sonora, Mexico; Nevada; New Mexico; Texas, Coahuila, Mexico; northern California and Oregon; Washington; British Columbia; Alaska and even Montana.

January 29, 1974. File No. N-31-4

Editor's Note: See "Anna's Hummingbird in Colorado" by Theodora A. Colburn and Oppie Reames, Colorado Field Ornithologist, 9:26 (June 1971) for a more detailed description of the above sightings.

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CACTUS WREN----Campylorhynchus brunneicapillum

The Official Records Committee has completed its review of documentation presented to support the occurrence of one Cactus Wren on July 17, 1968 approximately five miles west of Pueblo along Red Creek Road in Pueblo County. Based upon the documentation presented, the Committee has ruled to reject this sight report. Thus, the Cactus Wren remains to be a valid species for the official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

Chairman's Comment:

This is the second report of a Cactus Wren to be considered by the Committee with both reports interestingly coming from 1968 observations. Unfortunately, this report, like the previous one (June 11, 1968 near Campi, Baca County) lacked sufficient details to convince the Committee to accept it. Again, the Cactus Wren should be searched for in the drier areas of the southern parts of the state.

December 7, 1973. File No. N-42-29

HERMIT WARBLER----Dendroica occidentalis

Documentation submitted to substantiate the report of one female Hermit Warbler in breeding (spring) plumage on May 12, 1963 along Van Bibber Hogback Gap north of Golden in Jefferson County has been reviewed by the Official Records Committee. Based upon the information presented, the Committee ruled to reject this report due to the lack of convincing details to support the sighting. The Hermit Warbler remains to be added to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

Chairman's Comment:

As one Committee member stated, "this is a bird that ought to be on the Colorado list." And so it probably should! Even though this is the first and only report to date of a possible Hermit Warbler from our state, it is not inconceivable that a well documented report will eventually be sent to the Committee. "Western Slope" observers as well as "Mountain" observers probably have the best chance to turn up this species.

December 7, 1973. File No. N-52-18

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## TWELFTH ANNUAL CFO CONVENTION

May 18 and 19, 1974

Pueblo, Colorado

For details contact:

Dave A. Griffiths, President  
Colorado Field Ornithologists  
17 Solar Drive  
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

KENTUCKY WARBLER----Oporornis formosus

The Official Records Committee has reviewed written documentation submitted to support the sighting of one male Kentucky Warbler in full breeding plumage from Bluebell Canyon (birders' "Chautauqua Gully") in Boulder County. The report was submitted by Miss Louise Hering of Boulder and covered observations on May 31, June 7 and June 21, 1963. Based upon the data provided by Miss Hering, the Committee has voted to accept this record and add the Kentucky Warbler to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

From her field notes, Miss Hering reported to the Committee as follows:

"Olive green back; dark crown, all yellow breast and throat, a bright yellow face with a thin black line through the eye and making a stripe on the side of the face; yellow under tail; under the tail shows dark at the end." (Miss Hering then provided a crude sketch of her bird).

"Stayed in denser part of gully; sang from bushes; threw head back and sang...loud, chanting."

"Seemed to like denser part of gully...perched on medium bushes to sing."

"The first observation was brief. The bird was hard to see, but I was impressed by the song and knew I had something unusual for this area."

"The second observation was the best (June 7). I spent at least half an hour watching the bird in good light and had an excellent study of the bird."

"The third observation is just a notation - Kentucky Warbler again (in gully)."

Chairman's Comment:

Miss Hering's record of the Kentucky Warbler is the first for Colorado and her detailed report convinced the Committee to vote for acceptance. All Colorado observers are urged to follow Miss Hering's example when submitting documentation for rare or unusual as well as new species from within the state. See pages 33 and 41 for two subsequent reports of this species in Colorado.

December 7, 1973. File No. N-52-20

HOODED ORIOLE----Icterus cucullatus

As stated in the introduction to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado as published in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 17, pages 3-14, the CFO Official Records Committee was continuing to research some thirteen species which it tentatively accepted on the Official State List as compiled effective June 1, 1973. The Committee has concluded its deliberations on one of these species, the Hooded Oriole report from the Hotchkiss area of Delta County in 1959 and 1960, and has voted to reject this report on the basis of inconclusive evidence. Inasmuch as this was the only record to date for this species in Colorado, the Hooded Oriole will be deleted from the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

December 7, 1973. File No. N-54-34 (Special)

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SCOTT'S ORIOLE----Icterus parisorum

As stated in the introduction to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado as published in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 17, pages 3-14, the CFO Official Records Committee was continuing to research some thirteen species which it tentatively accepted on the Official State List as compiled effective June 1, 1973. The Committee has concluded its deliberations on one of these species, the Scott's Oriole report from the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument on June 1, 1960, and has voted to reject this report on the basis of inconclusive evidence. Inasmuch as this was the only record to date for this species in Colorado, the Scott's Oriole will be deleted from the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

Chairman's Comment:

The remaining nine species which the Committee has included conditionally on the Official State List but is continuing to investigate are:

Glossy Ibis, Common Eider, Caracara, Common Gallinule, Laughing Gull, Inca Dove, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Long-billed Thrasher, and Painted Redstart.

December 7, 1973. File No. N-54-35 (Special)



BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW---Spizella atrogularis

Documentation presented to support the sighting of one Black-chinned Sparrow just west of 8713 Baseline Road, Boulder County on December 15, 1973, has been reviewed by the CFO Official Records Committee for consideration as a first state record for Colorado. Based upon the information submitted, the Official Records Committee voted to reject this report.

Chairman's Comment:

This bird was reported on the Boulder 1973 Christmas Count and although sight reports were received from three separate observers, the reports were far from convincing for the Committee to accept as a new species for the state.

January 29, 1974. File No. N-56-37

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## COLOR-MARKED COWBIRDS

Over 2, 800 cowbirds were banded and color-marked in west-central Kansas during 1973 as an aid in studying their movements and hopefully to determine their place of origin. Birds were marked with dark blue or yellow plastic leg streamers. Banding and color-marking will be continued in 1974 with red, yellow or dark green leg streamers. Observers should report location and date of sighting, sex of bird and color of leg streamers to: Richard A. Hill, Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR----Calcarus pictus

The CFO Official Records Committee has examined written documentation submitted to substantiate the sighting of Smith's Longspurs in the vicinity of Murphy's Pasture approximately three miles north and two and one-half miles west of Briggsdale, Weld County on September 23, 24 and 25, 1973. Following a thorough review of the information submitted by four observers, the Committee has ruled to accept this Smith's Longspur record and to add this species to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado. The Committee wishes to commend the four observers who submitted written documentation on this sighting for the thoroughness and completeness of their reports. Unquestionably, these reports are among the best submitted to the Committee since its inception. A brief synopsis of each is included here as follows:

Nancy A. Hurley (September 23, 1973):

1, 000 birds (plus or minus) observed in winter plumage. "They were smaller than the Horned Larks, walked rather than hopped and all had Longspur species' tails; tawny breast, overall browner tan coloration than I associate with the Longspur species I am familiar with; about one-fifth of them showed white in the wings."

Lois E. Weber (September 23, 1973):

Number of birds seen were in the hundreds. "Birds first noted to flash 'Longspur tail'. They flew in 'waves'. Many showed white wing patch. The amount of white varied; some did not have any. When light was to my back many of the birds had a tawny-tan breast. All the calls in flight seemed to be the same. Smaller than Horned Larks also present."

John R. Cooper (September 24, 1973):

Number of birds seen were 25 in winter plumage. "Size and shape of medium-sized sparrow. Tail short (main reason for chunky appearance). Bill, sparrow-like and light-colored. Crown and back light brown, conspicuously streaked with brownish-black. Face and entire underparts of body, buff marked with dark brown in ear patch and inconspicuous little streaks on upper breast and sides. Tail, brownish-black with broad white bands of uniform width on sides (difficult to observe, but very well seen in individual that perched briefly on fence wire 25 feet away and repeatedly tilted and fanned out tail, evidently to maintain balance in high wind that was blowing). Some, but not all, individuals show two white wing-bars, the upper one (at the bend

of the wing) very broad as in American Goldfinch. Gregarious. Fed on bare ground and amongst short bunch grasses and cactus. Almost always with Horned Larks and commonly with McCown's Longspurs."

W. W. Brockner (September 25, 1973):

Number of birds seen 800 plus in winter plumage; males and females. "Larger than a House Sparrow; buffy; white outer tail feathers; white patch near shoulder of some specimens. Bill, sparrow type (seed-eating), flesh colored to buffy; Legs, long-clawed and flesh colored; Crown, finely pencilled brown into forehead; Eye, black; Nape, buffy; Face, buffy, stripe over eye; Throat, lighter buff; Breast and sides, buffy, pencilled from upper breast to sides; Belly and flanks, buffy, unmarked, pencilling thinning out in flanks; Undertail coverts, buffy; Back, buffy with parallel striping (brownish); Rump, striped down from back; Upper Side of Tail, white outer tail feathers, black 'V-like' into coverts in flight; Shape of Tail, hint of indentation in middle, fan-shaped. Voice, constant clicking when flying. Behavior, flew in rolling flocks back and forth across road, feeding on ground."

Chairman's Comment:

Excellent documentation - detailed and complete and most convincing. The only area open to controversy is the number of birds seen during the three day period. John Cooper provides some insight into this dilemma as follows: "Number of Smith's Longspurs seen is uncertain because of difficulty in distinguishing them from Horned Larks and other Longspurs. Most of the thousands of birds seen on the Grasslands were Horned Larks. Some were certainly McCown's Longspurs showing rusty bend in wing, distinctive tail pattern and white belly. The best field mark for the Smith's Longspurs (white wing bars, upper one very broad) was well seen on five birds. Smith's tail pattern definitely established for one other. The least satisfactory field mark, buff extending over entire underparts of body, was reasonably well seen on 20 to 25 birds. As only some of the males show white wing patch according to Peterson, the figure of 25 birds is regarded as minimal." The Official Records Committee tends to agree with John Cooper and, while this is probably a minor problem, feels that 25 to 100 probably is representative for this record.

December 14, 1973. File No. N-56-32

Editor's Note: See Colorado Field Ornithologist No. 18, page 19 (December 1973) for rejection of a 1966 report of this species in Colorado.

1973 REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF RARE AND UNUSUAL RECORDS  
CONDUCTED BY THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

Nineteen hundred and seventy-three saw the first full year of operation of the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee. During the year just completed, the Committee reviewed or attempted to review a total of 134 reports of rare and unusual species all from within Colorado. Of these, the Committee ruled to accept 94 as valid. An additional 27 were rejected for various reasons while observers failed to respond on 11 requests for documented reports. Two reports are still under investigation and the results of these will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Colorado Field Ornithologist (Rivoli's Hummingbird - File No. 31-73-78 and Sharp-tailed Sparrow - File No. 56-73-146). A complete list of all reports accepted by the Committee follows depicting the number of birds seen, photographed or collected; the location involved; the date or dates of the record, and the observers. Those observers providing documented reports (including photographs) are shown enclosed in parenthesis and underlined, e. g., (H.H.). A complete list of all observers involved with all accepted reports also follows. Where appropriate, the Chairman has made comments regarding some of the more unusual reports. A second list is also included showing those reports which the Committee found reason to reject. This list is identical to the first one with the exception that the observers involved are not shown. In most cases the main reason for rejection was due to the lack of complete or convincing details. A surprisingly few reports were involved with incorrect identifications, which points out quite emphatically the continuing need for observers to provide accurate and complete documentation.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to those Colorado observers as well as others from outside our state for their interest and cooperation in making the year an extremely successful one for the Colorado Field Ornithologists. The high number of responses for documented reports speaks for itself. The overall quality of the reports was also a credible aspect. It is hoped that our Colorado field observers will continue to submit their reports of rare and unusual species during 1974 as they did in 1973.

RARE AND UNUSUAL RECORDS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED

BY THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

ARCTIC LOON - Gavia arctica

2, in near-winter plumage (or possible immatures) observed at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County, November 18, 1973; H.H., (J.R.). File No. 1-73-133

Chairman's Comment:

This report represents the seventh state record for Colorado for this species. The report of one adult Arctic Loon in near-nuptial plumage on Boyd Lake near Loveland on September 23, 1973, and at same location again on October 16, 1973 (Ptarmigan, Volume 4, Number 11) was not reviewed by the Committee since no documentation to substantiate these sightings was provided.

RED-THROATED LOON - Gavia stellata

1, in winter plumage, observed at Marston Reservoir, Jefferson County, December 15, 1973, (Denver Christmas Count) by (H.H.), (J.R.) and (V.T.). File No. 1-73-142

Chairman's Comment:

This is only the third state record for Colorado. A single bird was shot at Antero Reservoir in South Park, Park County (date unknown) and the skin resides in the Colorado College Museum (No. 5585). One immature or winter plumaged bird was observed on December 23, 1956, also at Marston Reservoir and also on the Denver Christmas Count.

GREEN HERON - Butorides virescens

Nesting record from Rocky Ford Wildlife Area about three miles north of Rocky Ford, Otero County. One adult bird observed and photographed on nest on June 26, 1973, (V.T.). File No. 5-73-80

Chairman's Comment:

Undoubtedly Green Herons have nested within the boundaries of Colorado, most probably in the Bonny Reservoir area (Yuma County)

and elsewhere as this record would indicate. However, this report does represent the first documented record, complete with photographs, so far as the Committee has been able to discern. Should any Colorado observers know of other nesting records, the Chairman would like to be made aware of them.

CATTLE EGRET - Bubulcus ibis

1, sighted at Lake Henry, Ordway, Crowley County, April 21, 1968, (V.T.). File No. 5-73-31

1, observed twelve miles southeast of Eads, Kiowa County, August 19, 1972, M.B., S.B., H.B., (D.G.), J. L. and N.P. File No. 5-73-6

2, reported from C.F. & I. Lakes, Reservoir No. 3 about seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County, October 12, 1972, (D.G.), J.C.L., and D.S. File No. 5-73-7

1, observed at a pond about one-half mile east of the picnic area, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande County on May 1, 1973, (P.H.R.S.) and D.St. File No. 5-73-63

Chairman's Comment:

Reports of Cattle Egrets in Colorado are beginning to mount up. Through the end of 1973, at least twelve separate occurrences of this species have been reported, with reports coming from both the eastern and western slopes. Apparently it is gradually extending its range in Colorado since it was first reported in 1964 at Cherry Creek Reservoir in Arapaho County.

LEAST BITTERN - Ixobrychus exilis

1, observed at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County, May 22, 1971, (D.G.) and J.C.L. File No. 5-73-117

1, observed at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County on May 12, 1973, (P.J.), H.K., J.L. and B.S. File No. 5-73-81

Chairman's Comment:

One Least Bittern was credited to the Boulder Spring Count (1973) on May 12 (refer to the Lark Bunting, Volume 8, Number 9, June 1973). However, the Committee has been unable to determine the

accuracy of this report other than the fact a Least Bittern was not actually seen on the Boulder Spring Count. Evidently one was seen at the Sawhill Lakes sometime during May of 1973, but no details were provided.

BLUE GOOSE - Chen caeruluscens

1, observed at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County, on March 14, 1970, (V.T.). File No. 8-73-32

1, observed at Huerfano Reservoir, Pueblo County, on February 19, 1971, (V.T.). File No. 8-73-33

Chairman's Comment:

At least twenty-five reports have been compiled for Blue Goose occurrences within the state. There evidently is a small number (between 15-30) occurring regularly with a large flock of wintering Snow Geese (2500-3500) every year at Lake Meredith, Ordway in Crowley County.

ROSS' GOOSE - Chen rossi

1, sighted at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on April 22, 1972, C.B., S.B., (D.G.) and V.T. File No. 8-73-8

Chairman's Comment:

There are at least sixteen records of Ross' Geese for Colorado.

EUROPEAN WIDGEON - Mareca penelope

1, an immature male shot by a hunter on a small pond southwest of Walsenberg, Huerfano County on October 24, 1970, D.B., (D.G.) and (V.T.). File No. 8-73-9

Chairman's Comment:

The skin and wings of this bird were brought to D.G. and V.T. who identified the bird as a European Widgeon, most likely an immature male, "but definitely an immature." Identification was made based on the mottled axillars (white or whitish in the American Widgeon - Mareca americana). The skin was placed in the freezer at Southern Colorado State College which, regrettably, malfunctioned and the specimen spoiled and was discarded. Thus the state's only specimen

of this species was lost. It should be noted that American Birds, Volume 25, Number 1, Page 75, credits this report as the "first" for Colorado. It is unclear what the connotation "first" means as there are at least six sight reports predating this one and the fact that the skin was lost technically disqualifies it as a specimen record (extant). The Chairman is currently in possession of the wing, however.

1, an adult male, observed at Sweitzer Lake about two miles south of Delta, Delta County on May 4, 1971, (D.G.). File No. 8-73-10

SURF SCOTER - Melanitta perspicillata

3 immatures observed at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on October 20, 1973, (J.R.). File No. 8-73-128

RUFFED GROUSE - Bonasa umbellus

1 adult, a gray phase bird, reported from 9.75 miles (on a straight line) southeast of Hayden, Routt County on June 4, 1971, (P.L.). File No. 13-73-26

Editor's Note: A more detailed description of this fourth record for Colorado is reported in "Recent records of birds from the Yampa Valley, northwestern Colorado," by Stephen G. Martin, Paul H. Baldwin, and Edward B. Reed, Condor 76(1):113-116, Spring 1974.

WHOOPING CRANE - Grus americana

4 adults with one immature observed shortly after 3:00 p.m. at Greeley, Weld County, on November 3, 1973, (J.F.C.). File No. 16-73-132

Chairman's Comment:

Unquestionably this record has to be one of the most noteworthy in many, many years in Colorado. Apparently this is the first bonafide report of this endangered species from our state since October 13, 1941 when two birds were seen eight miles north of Arena, Cheyenne County and again the following year at the same location when two birds paused sometime during the month of October. The Chairman spoke with the observer over the telephone regarding the details of this observation and is fairly well convinced of the validity of this sighting. The observer was



raised in North Platte, Nebraska, and is familiar with the very common Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis), but had never before seen any Whooping Cranes in the wild. The Chairman wrote to the Refuge Manager at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge about this report. However, no acknowledgement or further information was ever received in return. Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Committee Member from Fort Collins, provided the Chairman with a copy of a News Release from the Department of the Interior dated November 13, 1973 which states in part, "The first five of the whoopers to reach Aransas were spotted on October 23. By November 1 there were 36 adults and 1 young whooper on the refuge, and at last county, November 8, there were 41 adult and 2 young birds." Dr. Ryder is of the opinion that from November 3 (the date of the Greeley sighting) to November 8 would be more than adequate for the birds to fly from Greeley to the Aransas Refuge. One last item of interest surrounding the Whooping Cranes at Greeley was the weather conditions which existed over the Great Plains on November 2, 3, and 4 that may have been instrumental in causing these birds to be so far off of their normal migratory route. A wide band of foggy, cloudy weather with considerable drizzle and freezing rain existed throughout most of South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado as well as most of central and western Nebraska and Kansas. This weather system was quite deep and most probably topped out around 10, 000 or 11, 000 feet and therefore could account for why these birds may have been "lost".

PIPING PLOVER - Charadrius melodus

1, observed at C. F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on August 19, 1971, L. S., M. S., J. T., and (V. T.). File No. 18-73-34

1, observed at Lake Cheraw, Otero County on May 11 and 12, 1973, (V. T.). File No. 18-73-67

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER - Pluvialis dominica

1, observed at C. F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 9 through 11, 1972, (V. T.). File No. 18-73-35

1, observed at C. F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on September 18, 1971, (D. G.) and D. S. File No. 18-73-21

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Arenaria interpres

1, sighted at Lake Maria (Rogers Lake) about five miles east of Walsenburg, Huerfano County on August 22, 1970, (D.G.). File No. 18-73-20

KNOT - Calidris canutus

1, observed at a temporary pond on the east side of Tower Road approximately one and one-half miles south of Barr Lake in Adams County on September 3, 1973, (L.W.). File No. 19-73-111

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Limnodromus griseus

1, observed approximately one-quarter of a mile north of 112th Avenue at the sod farm along (east side) of Chambers Road in Adams County on August 11, 1973, (H.H.) and (J.R.). Color photographs obtained by H.H. from as close as 29 feet. File No. 19-73-90

Chairman's Comment:

There are only two authentic records of Short-billed Dowitchers from Colorado - an adult female collected at Barr Lake on July 16, 1938 (No. 17645) and an immature female (No. 987) taken also from Barr Lake on August 14, 1909. Although many experts will claim that the Long-billed Dowitcher (L. scolopaceus) and Short-billed Dowitcher (L. griseus) are in fact conspecific and cannot be readily identified in the field, still others maintain that certain alert or flight calls are diagnostic. The dowitcher that was seen on August 11, 1973 at the sod farm in Adams County was flushed over a dozen times during a period of an hour and fifteen minutes and each time uttered a hurried (and rather loud) "teu-teu-teu" allegedly characteristic of L. griseus. It gave no other type of call during the period of observation. There were a number of excellent color photographs obtained, some as close as 29 feet using 16X lens. While not necessarily diagnostic, the photographs clearly show a comparatively short bill, little if any barring on the flanks and underparts and an overall lighter plumage when compared to the "normal" Long-billed Dowitcher which is generally a regular spring and fall migrant to the plains of eastern Colorado. Field observers in Colorado are urged to be alert to the possibility of both species occurring in our state. Listen carefully to the flight calls as a group of dowitchers take up from a marsh or mud flat and record their call notes. If the call is as described above -

"teu-teu-teu", it is probably the Short-billed Dowitcher; if a single, flat - "keek" or "peet" is heard, it is most likely the Long-billed Dowitcher.

1, observed at Antero Reservoir, Park County on August 19, 1973, (H.K.). File No. 19-73-108

Chairman's Comment:

This, coupled with the report above, marks only the fourth state record for this species. As in the report above, the diagnostic flight call was distinctly heard and described.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - Tryngites subruficollis

1, observed at C. F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on October 6, 1968, (D.G.). File No. 19-73-22

1, observed at Big Johnson Reservoir, El Paso County by Sam Gadd and Michael Schultz on August 22, 1972. Color photographs submitted by Michael Schultz which, along with his documentation, are on file with the Official Records Committee. File No. 19-72-37

1, observed at Idalia, Yuma County on May 11, 1973, (J.C.). File No. 19-73-56

POMARINE JAEGER - Stercorarius pomarinus

1 adult (light phase) observed at DeWeese Lake, Westcliffe, Custer County on May 12, 1973, S.B., P.E., D.G., (S.L.), B.R., D.S. and (V.T.). Color photographs obtained by V.T. File No. 22-73-45

1 adult (intermediate phase) observed at Prospect Reservoir, Weld County on October 6, 1973, (J.R.). File No. 22-73-124

1 immature, observed and photographed in color at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on September 20, 1973, (H.H.). File No. 22-73-115

Chairman's Comment:

Harold Holt's color pictures represent the first photographic evidence for this species for Colorado. There are no specimens and

only a handful of sight reports. The photographs were sent to the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, where William J. Maher, Associate Professor of Biology verified the identification.

1 immature, observed at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on December 17, 1973, (R.A.). File No. 22-73-143

COMMON TERN - Sterna hirundo

8, sighted at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County on August 25, 1968, P.J. and (H.K.). File No. 23-73-11

LEAST TERN - Sterna albifrons

2, observed at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on August 17, 1969, D.B. and (D.G.). File No. 23-73-116

1, observed at Lake Maria about five miles east of Walsenberg, Huerfano County on August 22, 1970, (D.G.). File No. 23-73-118

BAND-TAILED PIGEON - Columba fasciata

1, reported from Cottonwood Canyon, Baca County on June 27, 1972, B.K. and (L.W.). File No. 25-73-77

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Coccyzus erythrophthalmus

1, observed along the Colorado River about three miles east-southeast of Kremmling, Grand County on June 30, 1973, (R.E.). File No. 26-73-79

SNOWY OWL - Nyctea scandiaca

1, observed at Lake Isabel, Custer County on December 25, 1971, (D.Br.). File No. 28-73-120

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Lampornis clemenciae

1 female observed at hummingbird feeder, Evergreen, Jefferson County on September 7, 1970, (W.B.). File No. 31-73-74

Chairman's Comment:

This report predates the first accepted occurrence of this species for Colorado (Colorado Springs during July and August 1972 -

File No. N-31-7). However, when the Evergreen report was first received by the Committee, "one-observer" sight reports were not acceptable for consideration for inclusion on the Official State List. The Committee has now decided to accept "one-observer" sight reports for birds new to the state. In any event, this change in criteria should in no way detract from the importance and credibility of either of these two reports.

1 male observed at hummingbird feeder, Shadow Mountain, Grand County from June 28 through July 22, 1973, (E.C.). File No. 31-73-88

1 male observed at Fruita, Mesa County on August 1, 1973, (S.L.). File No. 31-73-104

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - Myiarchus crinitus

2, observed just below the dam at Two Buttes Reservoir, Baca-Prowers County line on August 19, 1973, (D.G.) and (D.S.). File No. 34-73-106

BLACK PHOEBE - Sayornis nigricans

2 (most likely a pair), observed approximately twenty miles southwest of Pueblo along Burnt Mill Road at the bridge over the St. Charles River, Pueblo County from April 21, 1973 through at least September 6, 1973, (D.G.), (V.T.) and many other observers. File No. 34-73-102

Chairman's Comment:

Evidently these are the same birds that were reported at the same location in 1972 when they constituted the first Colorado state record for this species (File No. N-34-11)

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE - Contopus virens

1, banded at Lykins Gulch, eight miles west of Longmont, Boulder County on June 3, 1973, (A.C.). File No. 34-73-98

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - Pyrocephalus rubinus

1 male, observed at Horse Creek Reservoir, Weld County on April 29, 1973, (H.H.). File No. 34-73-52

CAROLINA WREN - Thryothorus ludovicianus

1, observed at Pueblo, Pueblo County on January 8, 1973, (D.G.); January 9, 1973, (S.L.); and from December 15, 1972 through February 19, 1973, (N.E.) and numerous other observers. File No. 42-73-27

1, observed at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on February 18, 1973, (V.T.). File No. 42-73-37

1, observed and color photographs obtained by Jerry C. Ligon along Olson Road just west of 40th Lane (about 15 miles east of Pueblo), Pueblo County on December 12, 1971. Documentation and photographs are on file with the Official Records Committee. File No. 43-72-39

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Hylocichla minima

1 adult, found dead (apparently having flown into a picture window) at Fort Collins, Larimer County on May 15, 1973, (G.S.). File No. 44-73-113

Chairman's Comment:

This is the first verified specimen for Colorado. Identification has been verified by Dr. Kenneth Parkes at Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Specimen is in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Colorado State University. Dr. Parkes used the trinomial - Catharus minimus aliciae - when returning the specimen.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - Vireo flavifrons

1, observed along Boulder Creek behind (north of) University of Colorado stadium, Boulder County on May 10, 1973 (S.L.) and again on May 12, 1973 (A.Cr.). File No. 51-73-51

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Mniotilta varia

1 male captures in mist net about one-half mile from Carbondale, Garfield County on May 12, 1973, (J.W.). File No. 52-73-87

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - Protonotaria citrea

1, observed at C. F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 3, 1973, (D.S.) and again on May 4, 1973, (V.T.). File No. 42-73-75

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Helmitheros vermivorus

1, observed along the South Platte River at the Waterton Bridge, Jefferson County on April 29 and 30, 1967, (H.K.) and L. W. File No. 52-73-12

1, observed about 10 miles northwest of Pueblo along the C. F. & I. ditch, Pueblo County on April 29, 1973, (D.G.). File No. 52-73-119

1, observed about five miles north of Rye, Pueblo County on May 11, 1973, (V.T.). File No. 52-73-70

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Vermivora chrysoptera

1, an adult male in song, observed at Muir Springs Park, Morgan County on June 9, 1968 by John Cooper, Harold Holt and Jack Reddall. Written documentation submitted by Jack Reddall along with color photographs taken by Harold Holt both of which are on file with the Official Records Committee. File No. 52-73-33

Chairman's Comment:

There have been ten other records of this species occurring in Colorado in this century all of which were sight reports. While Mr. Holt's picture is not too clear, the bird is recognizable and does represent the first photographic evidence for the State of Colorado. The Official Records Committee is anxious to receive additional color photographic evidence of this species occurring within our state as well as well documented sight reports.

1, observed at Bear Canyon (Boulder foothills), Boulder County on May 20 and 21, 1972, (D.G.), H.K., (P.J.), T.M. and many other observers. File No. 52-73-25

1, observed along the Cimarron River, Baca County on May 5, 1973, (H.K.), L.J., (P.J.), D.M. and D.Sto. File No. 52-73-28

NASHVILLE WARBLER - Vermivora ruficapilla

1, observed about four or five miles northwest of Oak Creek, Routt County on June 16, 1973 and again on July 8, 1973, (L.W.). File No. 52-73-76

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Dendroica tigrina

1 male, observed on the University of Colorado campus, Boulder County on May 2, 1973, (H.C.); again on May 3, 1973, (A.Cr.); and again on May 7, 1973, (S.L.). File No. 52-73-48

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Dendroica caerulescens

1 male, observed at Pueblo, Pueblo County on September 13, 1970, (V.T.) and J.T. File No. 52-73-64

1 male, observed at the Northern Colorado Nature Center east of Fort Collins, Larimer County on May 16, 1973, (K.S.). File No. 52-73-41

1 male, observed about three miles downstream from Waterton along the South Platte River, Jefferson County on October 14, 1973, (U.C.) and (H.K.). File No. 52-73-126

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Dendroica virens

1 female, observed on the University of Colorado campus, Boulder County on May 3, 1973, (S.L.). File No. 52-73-89

1 male, observed along Boulder Creek just west of Sawhill Ponds, Boulder County on May 3, 1973, (B.B.), B.T., (M.M.), (P.M.). File No. 52-73-42

1 male, observed at Red Rocks Park, Morrison, Jefferson County on May 5, 1973, J.C., (B.R.). File No. 52-73-30

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Dendroica fusca

1 female, caught in mist net at Spring Canyon Dam, 3.5 miles south and 3 miles west of Fort Collins, Larimer County on October 13, 1973; recaptured at same location on October 17, 1973, J.B. and (R.B.). File No. 52-73-137



BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - Dendroica castanea

1 male, observed at Stanley Heights, Estes Park, Larimer County on May 20, 1973, (L.M.). File No. 52-73-57

1 female, observed at Lower Dixon Dam, 4.3 miles southeast of Fort Collins, Larimer County on May 23, 1973, (D.L.). File No. 52-73-127

1 male, observed at Loveland, Larimer County on June 3, 1973, (D.R.). File No. 52-73-99

1 male, observed at Cherry Creek Village, Arapahoe County on June 16, 1973, (J.R.). File No. 52-73-54

1 male, observed and photographed in color at Tarryall Reservoir (southwest of western side of breast of dam), Park County on June 17, 1973, (D.Ba.). File No. 52-73-85

Chairman's Comment:

Mr. Bartol's photograph represents the first picture taken of this species in Colorado; there are no specimens. The five reports of Bay-breasted Warblers submitted during 1973 are an astounding number when one considers that there have been only fourteen previous records from the state.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Dendroica striata

1 male, observed at C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 9 through 13, 1972, (V.T.). File No. 52-73-71

1 male, observed at old Honor Farm along the Arkansas River, Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 11, 1973, D.G. and (S.L.). File No. 52-73-47

1 male, observed at Waterton (about one-quarter of a mile west of the bridge on the north side of the South Platte River), Jefferson County on May 12, 1973, (L.Wi.). File No. 52-73-53

3 males, observed at Sawhill Ponds east of Boulder, Boulder County on May 16 and 17, 1973, J.L., (S.L.). File No. 52-73-47

1 male, observed at Spring Canyon Dam, 3.5 miles south and 3 miles west of Fort Collins, Larimer County on May 27, 1973, (R. B.). File No. 52-73-136

1 male, sighted at Preston Nursery, two miles southeast of Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 30, 1973, (V. T.). File No. 52-73-72

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Seiurus noveboracensis

1, a rare winter observation at Waterton along the South Platte River below the bridge, Jefferson County on February 11, 1973, (R. Bu.). File No. 52-73-5

KENTUCKY WARBLER - Oporornis formosus

1 (probably a female), caught in a mist net, photographed in color, banded (No. 1310-61210) and released along the Arkansas River about five miles east of Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 7, 1973, (V. T.). File No. 52-73-29

Chairman's Comment:

This record is only the second for Colorado, the only other being a sight report from Boulder County in the spring of 1963 (File No. N-52-20)--see p. 14.

HOODED WARBLER - Wilsonia citrina

1 male, observed along the east edge of Barr Lake, Adams County on May 8, 1965, (V. R.). File No. 52-73-40

1 male, observed about one-half mile south of Little Thompson River, Berthoud, Larimer County on May 12, 1973. (D. Mu.). File No. 52-73-96

1 female, observed at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on May 13, 1973, (J. R.). File No. 52-73-39

1 male, observed in swamp near beginning of Cub Lake Trail, Rocky Mountain National Park on May 14, 1973, (B. Bl.). File No. 52-73-59

CANADA WARBLER - Wilsonia canadensis

1 male, sighted at Crow Creek Picnic Ground, Pawnee National Grassland, Weld County, on June 18, 1967, N.H. and (H.K.). File No. 52-73-17

1 male, observed at Eldora, Boulder County on June 22, 1970, (V.R.). File No. 52-73-58

1 male, caught in mist net and photographed in color below Spring Canyon Dam, 3.5 miles south and 3 miles west of Fort Collins, Larimer County on May 26, 1973, (R.B.). File No. 52-73-112

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - Cassidix mexicanus

1, observed at Pastorius Reservoir southeast of Durango, La Plata County on July 16, 1972, G.E., R.E., (E.F.), O.R. and (R.S.). File No. 54-73-73

Chairman's Comment:

This report from Durango represents only the second occurrence of this species for Colorado (the only other record coming from Gunnison during the years 1970 through 1973 - File No. N-54-23).

HEPATIC TANAGER - Piranga flava

One male and one female, observed at the mouth of the East Fork of Parachute Creek north of Grand Valley, Garfield County on July 21, 1973, (A.S.). File No. 55-73-100

Chairman's Comment:

This is only the second Colorado record for this species, the other also being a sight report, from Boulder, on May 15, 1956. In passing, it should be noted that the observer also mentions another sighting of a pair of Hepatic Tanagers approximately twelve miles downstream from the point of this observation at about the same time. Whether these may have been the same birds is as yet undetermined, since the Committee has failed to obtain a report from the other observer involved.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - Loxia leucoptera

1, observed along Kettle Creek at Shoup Road, Black Forest, El Paso County on January 1, 1973. (R.Be.). File No. 56-73-2

BAIRD'S SPARROW - Ammodramus bairdii

1, observed less than two miles north of the intersection of State Highways 550 and 62 (near Ridgeway), Ouray County on October 6, 1973, Ga.V.E. and (G.V.E.). File No. 56-73-131

SAGE SPARROW - Amphispiza belli

1, observed along the foothills adjacent to Canon City, Freemont County on May 12, 1973, (S.L.). File No. 56-73-44

FIELD SPARROW - Spizella pusilla

1, observed at Huerfano Reservoir, Pueblo County on March 15, 1969, (V.T.). File No. 56-73-65

1, observed along the Cimarron River, Baca County on May 7, 1972, L.J., P.J. and (H.K.). File No. 56-73-15

2, observed along the Republican River below Bonny Dam, Yuma County on May 13, 1972; 3, observed along the Republican River below Bonny Dam, Yuma County on May 14, 1972, both observations made by P.J. and (H.K.). File No. 56-73-16

1, observed at Sheridan Lake, Kiowa County on September 4, 1972, (V.T.). File No. 56-73-66

FOX SPARROW - Passerella iliaca

1, observed at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on September 30, 1973, (J.R.). File No. 56-73-125

LIST OF OBSERVERS ASSOCIATED WITH REPORTS OF RARE AND UNUSUAL SPECIES WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE IN 1973

NOTE: Those initials appearing in (parenthesis) and underscored were observers submitting written and/or photographic documentation (or both). All other observers are indicated by initials only. No observers are shown for records rejected by the Committee.

Robert Andrews - R. A.	Harold R. Holt - H. H.
	Nancy Hurley - N. H.
Merle C. Barbour - M. B.	
Dominic A. Bartol, Jr. - D. Ba.	Bianca Iovine - B. I.
Richard G. Beidleman - R. Be.	
Ben Blazier - B. Bl.	Lesley Julian - L. J.
Sophia Bogart - S. B.	Paul R. Julian - P. J.
Helen Bonnema - H. B.	
Christine Bonney - C. B.	Hugh E. Kingery - H. K.
Bruce Bosley - B. B.	Barbara Korpi - B. K.
Don Bowman - D. B.	
Jan Boyd - J. B.	David Laliberte - D. L.
Roger L. Boyd - R. B.	Jim Lane - J. L.
Donna Bregenzler - D. Br.	Steve Larson - S. L.
Winston William Brockner - W. B.	Jerry C. Ligon - J. C. L.
Robert F. Buttery - R. Bu.	Philip N. Lehner - P. L.
Urling Cannon - U. C.	Thompson G. Marsh - T. M.
E. P. Carter, Jr. - E. C.	Lois Mathews - L. M.
Honeywood P. Carter - H. C.	David McCargo - D. M.
Allegra Collister - A. C.	Michael Moulton - M. M.
John R. Cooper - J. C.	Mrs. Daniel A. Muller - D. Mu.
Jerry F. Copeland - J. F. C.	
Allen B. Crockett - A. Cr.	Nancy Pierson - N. P.
Patty Echelmeyer - P. E.	Oppie Reames - O. R.
Nadine Elich - N. E.	Jack Reddall - J. R.
Gene Elliot - G. E.	Bob Reed - B. R.
Robbie M. Elliot - R. E.	Van Remsen - V. R.
	Doris Robertson - D. R.
Elva Fox - E. F.	
Claire Griffiths - C. G.	Lois Schultz - L. S.
David A. Griffiths - D. G.	Michael P. Schultz - M. S.
	David Silverman - D. S.

Allen G. Smith - A. S.  
Robert Spencer - B. S.  
Karen Steenhoff - K. S.  
Donna Stepney - D. St.  
P.H.R. Stepney - P.H.R. S.  
Douglas Stotz - D. Sto.  
Richard Stransky - R. S.  
Dr. Gustav Swanson - G. S.

Joe Truan - J. T.  
Van Truan - V. T.  
  
Gayle Van Essen - Ga. V. E.  
G. N. Van Essen - G. V. E.  
  
Lois Webster - L. W.  
Lynn Willcockson - L. Wi.  
Jerry L. Wooding - J. W.

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#### DUES

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RARE AND UNUSUAL RECORDS REVIEWED AND REJECTED  
BY THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

RED-THROATED LOON - Gavia stellata

1 immature, observed on Missouri Heights Reservoir, Garfield County from May 4, 1973 through June 25, 1973. File No. 1-73-86

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Florida caerulea

1 adult, observed along the Little Thompson River near Berthoud, Larimer County on May 12, 1973. File No. 5-73-95

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - Nyctanassa violacea

1 immature, observed at Lake Henry, Ordway, Crowley County on July 4, 1970. File No. 5-73-121

TRUMPETER SWAN - Olor buccinator

1 adult and 4 immatures, observed and photographed in color at Lake Estes Park, Larimer County from March 17, 1971 through March 19, 1971. File No. 8-73-83

Chairman's Comment:

Although the yellow lores were missing on the adult bird and the upper bill had a pink edge to it, the birds were not heard to call, thus leaving a reasonable element of doubt. The only record for Colorado remains an adult male found dead near Fort Collins on November 25, 1915.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Mergus serrator

1 female with four young, observed on the Colorado River about three miles east-southeast of Kremmling, Grand County on June 30, 1973. File No. 8-73-82

PIPING PLOVER - Charadrius melodus

1, observed at Lake Cheraw, Crowley County on August 16, 1971. File No. 18-73-23

RED PHALAROPE - Phalaropus fulicarius

1, observed and photographed in color at Sawhill Ponds, Boulder, Boulder County on May 31, 1973. File No. 21-73-109

Chairman's Comment:

The color photographs clearly depict an immature Forster's Tern (Sterna forsteri).

ICELAND GULL - Larus glaucoides

1 immature (?), observed at Marston Reservoir, Bow-Mar, Jefferson County on March 31, 1973. File No. 23-73-19

LAUGHING GULL - Larus atricilla

1, observed at Sheridan Lake, Kiowa County on September 4, 1972. File No. 23-73-36

SPOTTED OWL - Strix occidentalis

1, heard calling near the Continental Divide at the headwaters of the Navajo River about two miles from Blue Lake, Conejos County on August 10 and 11, 1973. File No. 28-73-107

RIVOLI'S HUMMINGBIRD - Eugenes fulgens

1 pair (?), observed at La Veta, Huerfano County from August 3, 1973 through August 22, 1973. File No. 31-73-93

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Lampornis clemenciae

1, observed about five miles southwest of Estes Park on the west slope of Gianttrack Mountain, east of the YMCA Conference Grounds and about one and one-half miles northeast of East Portal, Larimer County on the following dates: September 1, 1958; August 9, 1959 through August 30, 1959; September 5 and 6, 1959. File No. 31-73-18

Chairman's Comment:

A complete account of these reports can be found in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 17, September 1973, page 15. The Committee thoroughly reviewed the evidence in question here and after considerable deliberations at its recent meeting decided to



reject these sightings as Blue-throated Hummingbirds with the footnote that a "large" hummingbird was indeed present on the dates indicated; exact species not clearly determined. The Committee is grateful to Mrs. Allegra Collister for the excellent research she provided.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - Myiarchus crinitus

1, observed at Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 27, 1973. File No. 34-73-68

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN - Cistothorus platensis

1, observed at the C.F. & I. Lakes, seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on March 10, 1973. File No. 42-73-4

WOOD THRUSH - Hylocichla mustelina

1, observed near Colorado Springs, El Paso County on October 15, 1972. File No. 44-73-141

1, observed near Colorado Springs, El Paso County on October 25, 1973. File No. 44-73-140

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Hylocichla minima

1, observed at Bonny Reservoir area (below dam) near Colorado-Kansas State line, Yuma County on May 12, 1973. File No. 44-73-92

1, observed at Bonny Reservoir area (below dam), Yuma County on May 19, 1973. File No. 44-73-46

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Vireo philadelphicus

1, observed at Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 29, 1973. File No. 51-73-69

LUCY'S WARBLER - Vermivora luciae

1, observed on the campus (Orman) of Southern Colorado State College, Pueblo, Pueblo County on May 15, 1971. File No. 52-73-38

KENTUCKY WARBLER - Oporornis formosus

1, observed along Van Bibber Creek near Golden, Jefferson County on May 13, 1964. File No. 52-73-114

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Oporornis agilis

4, in fall plumage, observed in the Colorado Springs area, El Paso County on September 23, 1973. File No. 52-73-139

PAINTED BUNTING - Passerina ciris

1 female, observed at Two Buttes, Baca County on May 15, 1970. File No. 56-73-13

BAIRD'S SPARROW - Ammodramus bairdii

1 (?) (exact number unclear from reports), observed at Sawhill Ponds near Boulder, Boulder County on May 3, 1973. File No. 56-73-103

1, observed at the Hale Ponds in the Bonny Reservoir area, Yuma County on May 13, 1973. File No. 56-73-84

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Passerherbulus caudacutus

1, observed at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on May 9, 1967. File No. 56-73-14

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - Calcarius lapponicus

About 6(?), observed at the C.F. & I. Lakes, about seven miles south of Pueblo, Pueblo County on August 4, 1973. File No. 56-73-91

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compiled by

David W. Lupton  
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Road, Bergvliet 7800, South Africa. Publication -- Cape Bird Club  
Newsletter.
- South Africa -- Editor, National Unit for Bird-Ringing Administration.  
University of Cape Town, Private Bag. Rondebosch Cape South  
Africa. Publication -- Safring News/Nuus.

## CORRECTIONS

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