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COVER PHOTO: Adult male Western Meadowlark standing in front of a well concealed nest containing four young. Photographed in early May 1974, 10 km. south of Fort Collins, Colorado, in a fallow field of mixed forbs and grasses. Photo courtesy of Rick Schroeder.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

20 June, 1974

Dear Mr. Lupton:

I wish to correct an error which occurred and was printed in *C.F.O.* Vol. no. 19, March 1974, page 29. I DID NOT obtain color photographs of Carolina Wren, as stated, on 12 December 1971. The species that is referring to is Curve-billed Thrasher, of which the Official Records Committee does have on file both documentation and color photographs. This error seems to be most evident in light of the high degree of accuracy that is demanded of us as field observers and, infrequently, submitters of rare and unusual records in order to get verification; therefore, the old saying goes "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." Your publication, as well as I, must not accept inaccuracies in reporting if we are to maintain any degree of creditability. If *CFO* is to be used as a scientific organ, for the dissemination of information, then, that information must be accurate. I realize that that is hard to do, receiving as you do, second-handed and sometimes, third-handed information on sightings from many individuals with varying degrees of competence, but, the mistakes made at 'this' end cannot be compounded by mistakes made at 'that' end if we are to remain viable.

I might add, with all good humor and intentions, that I've found a nest of the Ovenbird in Rye Mountain Park and I will be trying to secure color photographs of nesting activities and will submit material for your review and hopefully, publication -- that is -- if you don't credit me with photographing Colorado's first Southern Siberian Mile-o-More Bird.

Respectfully,

Jerry C. Ligon
2608 Vinewood
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

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July 30, 1974

MR. DAVID W. LUPTON
Head, Serials Section
Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Dear Dave,

Please refer to the *Colorado Field Ornithologist* Number 19, March 1974, pages 26 and 27. Evidently your typist failed to pick up the correct heading for the Pomarine Jaeger on page 26. The third and fourth sighting are of a Parasitic Jaeger, not a Pomarine. Would you kindly print a correction to show that the "one immature observed and photographed in color at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on September 20, 1973, (H. H.); File No. 22-73-115" and the associated chairman's comment along with the "one immature, observed at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on December 17, 1973 (R. A.); File No. 22-73-143" are correctly listed as PARASITIC JAEGER - *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Apparently what happened was that the two Parasitic Jaeger sightings were submitted on an additional, separate sheet and the typist got the two Jaegers mixed.

Best regards,

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

October 10, 1974

Mr. David W. Lupton, Head
Serials Section
Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Dear Dave,

Please refer to *Colorado Field Ornithologist*, No. 19, March 1974, page 24. Under PIPING PLOVER - *Charadrius melodus*: the bird observed at C.F.&I. Lakes was seen on August 29, 1971 not August 19, 1971 as reported. Please insert a correction in a forthcoming issue of the *Colorado Field Ornithologist*. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Minutes of 12th Annual Meeting

Robbie M. Elliott, Executive Secretary
 Colorado Field Ornithologists
 220-31st Street
 Boulder, Colorado 80303

May 18, 1974
 Pueblo, Colorado

The twelfth annual convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held at the Belmont campus of Southern Colorado State College and the Holiday Inn in Pueblo, Colorado, on May 18-19, 1974. The Board of Directors met at 5 p.m. on May 18, followed by a meeting with the Board of Advisors, at SCSC. An open meeting was held in conjunction with the annual banquet at the Holiday Inn. President Dave Griffiths presided at each meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 19, 1973 meeting in Durango were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Income:	
Balance on hand, May 19, 1973	\$283.34
Sale of CFO bulletins	26.25
Subscriptions to CFO publication	100.00
Membership dues received since last annual meeting	497.71
	<u>\$879.59</u>
Disbursements (detailed list on file)	497.71
Balance on hand, May 18, 1974	<u>\$381.68</u>

Election of Officers: An election of officers was held in accordance with the by-laws. Those elected are:

President	Dave Griffiths, Pueblo
Incoming President	Jack Reddall, Denver
Executive Secretary	Robbie Elliott, Boulder
Treasurer	Berniece Merry, Denver
Editor	David Lupton, Fort Collins
Director, two years	Nyla Kladder, Grand Junction
Director, two years	Robert Tully, Denver
Director, one year	Paul Julian, Boulder
Director, one year	Howard Winkler, Durango

The Board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Helen Thurlow of Colorado Springs and Dr. Thompson Marsh of Denver who are retiring as board members, and to Miss Sadie Morrison who is retiring as treasurer.

Advisory Board: The president reported that the following organizations have named members to the Advisory Board: Aiken Audubon Society (Colorado Springs), Boulder Bird Club, Durango Bird Club, Evergreen Naturalists, Fort Collins Bird Club, Audubon Society of Western Colorado, and Gunnison Valley Naturalists. Letters will be sent to other organizations, urging participation.

Bird of the Year Award: Misses Nancy Hurley and Lois Webster of Denver were selected by the president to receive the annual award for the sighting of about 1000 Smith's Longspurs near Briggsdale, Colorado, on September 23, 1973.

Records Committee: Documentation of the work of the Records Committee, two bound volumes of 134 reports of rare and unusual species reported from within Colorado, was available for members to examine.

Field Trips: The following field trips for the CFO membership were scheduled:

July 27, 1974 - Pawnee Grasslands (Meet at Voyager Inn parking lot, I 70 and Chambers Road in Denver, 6 a.m.)

August 10, 1974 - Durango; host - Durango Bird Club

September 7-8, 1974 - Pueblo area; host - Pueblo Audubon Club

October 12, 1974 - Baca County; host - Arkansas Valley Naturalists

February, 1975 - date to be announced; host - Aiken Audubon Society, Colorado Springs

March, 1975 - date to be announced; host - Denver Field Ornithologists

April, 1975 - date to be announced; host - Grand Junction

Host organizations were requested to furnish details of the trip to the Editor at least three months in advance, so that announcements can be made in the *Colorado Field Ornithologist*.

Annual Convention Invitations: Invitations extended by the Aiken Audubon Society of Colorado Springs for the 1975 convention and by the Fort Collins Bird Club for the 1976 convention were accepted.

Robbie M. Elliott
Executive Secretary

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A STUDY OF THE NESTING BEHAVIOR OF WESTERN MEADOWLARKS
NEAR FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Richard Lee Schroeder II
Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Abstract: Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) are abundant nesting birds in eastern Colorado. Males set up territories averaging four hectares. Nest construction was done only by the female, and began the third week in April. Nests were built in clover and grass fields and contained an average of 5.2 eggs. Predation appears to be an important factor in the low fledging success of Western Meadowlarks.

The Western Meadowlark is a highly visible and abundant bird in the eastern plains of Colorado. There has been no thorough report and photographic study of the nesting behavior of this species. Bailey and Niedrach (1965) state that although Western Meadowlarks are tame, they are not easily photographed, and often desert their nest when disturbed. The purpose of this report is to describe the nesting behavior of Western Meadowlarks.

STUDY AREA

The study area was located 8 km east of the foothills and 10 km south of Fort Collins, Colorado. The major study area was partially divided by county road 34, with fields of winter wheat on one side and clover on the other. Another area of mixed forbs and grasses was studied in less detail.

The most abundant birds were Western Meadowlarks. Other birds in the area included Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels (*Citellus tridecemlineatus*) were the most abundant mammal other than mice and voles.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nests were located by observation of female Western Meadowlarks from 10 April to 5 May. All nests were located during construction by sighting females flying to the nest with grass. Once located, nests were marked with a stake placed 2-3 m away.

To condition the meadowlarks to my blind, I used a technique suggested by Warham (1966). A small box was placed 3-4 m from the nest site and gradually replaced by larger boxes. After three or four changes I erected my blind. No meadowlarks deserted as a result of these initial efforts.

A tripod, Minolta SRT-101 single lens reflex camera, and MC Rokkor 200mm lens were used in taking photographs. In order to assure a fast enough shutter speed to stop action I used ASA 64, Kodachrome X film.

My wife aided by escorting me to and from the blind, so the meadowlarks would not be aware of my presence in the blind. The birds generally returned to the nest within minutes after my wife left.

RESULTS

Male and female Western Meadowlarks can be identified in the field in four ways: (1) the male has brighter yellow coloration, (2) only the male sings, (3) the male is most often the bird exposed on a perch, and (4) the female utters a chatter or rattle sound.

The female often chatters immediately after her mate sings. She does chatter at other times, but never in response to a bird other than her mate. I believe this selective response is due in part to the female's knowledge of her mate's location. She may also recognize the individual song of her mate. It is difficult to state the reason for this selective response. Possibly the female chatter response to her mate aids him in detecting her location as she moves around the territory.

Male Western Meadowlarks began to set up territories in late March and marked the edges by singing from exposed perches. The size of the territory varies from 3-5 ha. This area is vigorously defended, and all male meadowlark intruders are promptly attacked and chased out. Contact between males is rare. Most often the defending male chases the intruder to the edge of the territory and then turns back in a wide circle. On one occasion a male chased a Red-winged Blackbird from his territory. Generally, however, other species were tolerated. Female meadowlarks were never observed to leave their mate's territory.

Daily activity patterns were exhibited by the meadowlarks. Males sang most frequently in the early morning hours, with the least amount of singing at mid-day. Copulation was observed only in the early morning hours. Most birds foraged in the afternoon. S. A. G. Creighton (1974) agrees, and states that insects are more readily available and more visible in the afternoon hours. Thus meadowlarks, being highly insectivorous, forage more during this period.

Nesting began in mid April. The earliest date of nest construction was 18 April, with most being started in late April and early May. This corresponds to initiation dates for Eastern Meadowlarks in southern Illinois (Roseberry and Klimstra 1970). Females built the nest with no help from males.

I located a total of seven nests, three in clover and four in grassy areas. They consisted of a small depression lined with coarse grass on the outside and fine grass on the inside. No clover was used in any nest. Usually a dome was built over nests, but this was variable. Three nests had complete domes, and four had only partial domes. The nests with complete domes were constructed in more open areas where the eggs would have been easily visible without a dome. The nests with partial domes were built under a clump of clover or grass and were well concealed.

The depth of the nest depression ranged from 5-8 cm, with an average of 6.5 cm. The width of the inside of the nest ranged from 10-13 cm, with an average of 11 cm. The direction of the opening was highly variable, except that no nest opened directly north. The average length of nest construction was about six days.

Eggs were laid in the early morning hours and on consecutive days. I observed one female lay an egg while I was in the blind. She stayed in the nest for thirty minutes, from 0700 to 0730. Eggs in completed nests averaged 5.2 in number and were white with small red spots.

Only the female incubates the eggs; the male continues singing and defending the territory. Incubation lasts from 13-14 days. Gathering information on incubating females has some special difficulties. First, one cannot see when the birds are incubating without approaching the nest and causing a disturbance. If one attempts observation from a distance, several hours may be required before the female leaves the nest. From my observations, the female feeds in the afternoon, when the temperature is the warmest. Further study would be required to substantiate this and learn more of the female time budget during incubation.

Several times upon approaching incubating females I flushed them from the nest. They generally performed distraction displays as described by Alberts (1960). They flew weakly, almost hopping, for 10-15 m from the nest. The farther they got from the nest the more their flight improved, until at about 20 m they flew normally. This display was observed in two different females.

On the seven nests I observed, only three successfully hatched young. The four failures included two known losses from predation, and two desertions for unknown reasons. Being a ground nesting species, meadowlarks are greatly affected by predation. Lanyon (1957) reported a total fledging success of 34.4 percent for 60 Eastern Meadowlark and

62 Western Meadowlark nests in Wisconsin. The most likely predators in my study areas were Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels and feral cats.

Young were fed mostly by female meadowlarks. Males fed the young regularly, but only about twenty percent as often as the female. Food items for the young consisted of a large variety of insects. The adult feeding posture at the nest was with their head in the nest and tail sticking out. Only the females were observed to carry away fecal sacs of the young.

The young fledged in 9-10 days in the three successful nests. After fledging, observation of the young was very difficult. They remained in the territory, hidden in the tall grass and clover areas.

DISCUSSION

Western Meadowlarks provide a good opportunity for a photographic nest behavior study. They are an abundant bird, and being a ground nester no special tree blinds or towers are needed for observations.

Several aspects of the meadowlarks nesting behavior are interesting and worth discussion. First, the nest itself is a unique structure. Many ground nesting birds make only a scant nest and depend on protectively colored eggs to prevent predation. The female Western Meadowlark lays bright white eggs with red spots and builds an elaborate domed nest to conceal them.

The female meadowlark's chatter response to her mate had not been previously mentioned in the literature. I found this a common occurrence in the seven meadowlark pairs I studied. The mechanism that allows a female to identify her mate's song is not known. Further study would show whether the male's location or individual song is the key factor.

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BIRDS AND BATS IN MEXICO

Allegra Collister
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Longmont, Colorado 80501

Early in January 1974 an invitation to join friends at Oaxaca, southeast of Mexico City, was eagerly accepted. Previous brief visits to Mexican states of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, and Tamaulipas had revealed the delights of tropical birding. Now an opportunity to sample bird life of Oaxaca, Tabasco, and a small corner of Chiapas was most welcome. As usual, time was limited, with a two-weeks vacation all too brief, considering unforeseen complications. Nevertheless, highlights may be helpful to anyone planning a similar trip.

From our winter quarters in Yuma, Arizona, Mexicali, Baja California was the logical departure point for a flight to Mexico City. All Mexicana Airlines planes are Boeing 727 jets, and fares are lower than on comparable American airlines. The late afternoon flight provided spectacular views of deserts and mountains, and finally of the vast lighted expanse of the capital city, with its over three million population. Outside the impressive airport, the Holiday Inn "limousine" (VW van-type) and driver finally appeared to take me to the nearby motel. In my case, convenience out-weighed the appeal of less expensive quarters in the heart of the city.

Misunderstandings (involving a time change, one hour earlier in Mexico City) led to a missed flight the following morning, with a quick decision to substitute a 10-hour bus ride to Oaxaca. There I found my friends becoming concerned over my non-appearance, and ready to welcome me to that favorite rendezvous of visiting birders, Oaxaca Courts. One could spend many hours searching the extensive grounds for a long list of species, including hummingbirds, many warblers, several tanagers, and orioles (including the Black-vented). The small but conspicuous Tufted Flycatcher was easily identified by its rich cinnamon underparts and perky crest. Flocks of dazzling white Cattle Egrets made morning and evening flights overhead, while on the ground Inca Doves squabbled over nesting sites.

Rooms at Oaxaca Courts ranged widely in price, from 100 pesos up. For dinners we preferred the Hotel Victoria, on a hillside overlooking the city of approximately 75,000 (better food at a lower price).

My friends, Gale and Camille Cummings, of Berthoud, Colorado, had driven their jeep-wagoneer south from Nogales, birding, visiting friends, and viewing pre-Columbian ruins enroute to Oaxaca. Camille had already compiled a fine list of birds, many seen for the first time. This was our first opportunity to use the Peterson-Chalif *Field Guide to Mexican Birds*, which we supplemented with the Edwards, Davis, and Blake works,

as well as our North American guides. In fact, books took precedence in my baggage over such non-essentials as clothes and snack foods!

Mike Parmenter of Napa, California (friend and fellow birder on a previous Mexican trip) had birded extensively in southeastern Mexico, and shared with us his copious notes and lists. He had suggested the road to Puerto Escondido on the Pacific coast as providing excellent birding. But with road conditions uncertain we decided to save this for another trip, and instead visited the cloud forest on the road to Guelatao, northeast of Oaxaca. Car trouble developed, and while the engine cooled, we scouted nearby woodland slopes, in the vicinity of La Cumbre. Here we found White-eared and Long-billed Starthroat Hummingbirds, Ruddy Foliage-gleaner, the charming Red and Golden-browed Warblers, and White-winged Tanager, among many more common species. Brief glimpses of a trogon and several hummingbirds left us frustrated as they disappeared into the forest. As we returned to Oaxaca we picked up a small Indian farmer, carrying a very big sack of produce to market. From him we learned that we were two to three weeks early for the best birding. Birds would be much more active from about February 1 on, when mating and nesting would be underway.

While work was done on the car, we followed San Felipe Avenue north from our motel -- first as a wide paved street, then a cobblestone road, and finally as a footpath, leading at last to a viveros (nursery), with luxuriant growth in a narrow ravine. Flocks of Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers fed in the treetops, a species so numerous that it is called the "Oaxaca Warbler"! But for some reason there was little activity along the small stream below. An Elegant Trogon female (with her distinctive white ear-patch) followed us up-stream and back again. A surprise find was an Unicolored Jay, apparently rare in Oaxaca. Vermilion Flycatchers on fences, and our own Gray Catbird in the shrubbery were familiar sights, while a pair of Stripe-backed Tanagers were new to us; easily distinguished from the White-winged Tanager seen earlier. In the same tree a White-tipped Dove brooded her eggs on a fragile nest.

With the car restored to normal, we continued southeastward on Highway 190, stopping briefly just outside Oaxaca to see the astonishing Tule tree, truly immense. Farther on we detoured a short distance to view the Mitla ruins. This "City of the Dead" consisted of five groups of buildings with carved facades, and had been the burial place of chiefs. A small market near the ancient structures offered colorful articles for sale -- some of native handicraft, others imported from the Far East. Camille bargained expertly, but we did not have the heart to offer much less than the asking price since a peso more or less meant so much to these impoverished people.

The long road to Tehuantepec wound through dry mountainous country, where it seemed the tiny tilted farms could not possibly provide enough food for the peasant population. We met an occasional truck but most

local travel was 'a pie'. Birds were scarce, though in late afternoon we saw flocks of parrots in the distance -- probably White-fronted, common in this area. More satisfying was a fine view of two Hook-billed Kites perched near the highway.

At Tehuantepec the recommended hotel was full, so we found rooms in the ancient Tehuantepec Hotel, probably more noted for its history (dating back to colonial days?) than for modern comforts. However, on the whole we had few complaints. Lodging was usually quite adequate, and excellent dinners were served in the better restaurants. We lunched on the abundant native fruit available at roadside stands, with several varieties of tangerines and the small Mexican bananas our favorites.

Clamorous voices in the dense treetops outside our hotel rooms came from a flock of Great-tailed Grackles -- unwelcome visitors, to be scared away next morning by volleys of gunfire. Not far out of town as we stopped to service the car we noted several Groove-billed Anis, a Linneated Woodpecker, and at some distance a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in flight, its long tail spread at a characteristic angle quite different from that of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Northeast of Tehuantepec we left the Inter-American Highway and followed Highway 185 across the Isthmus toward Coatzacoalcos and the junction with Highway 180 which follows the Gulf coast. With heavier rainfall, forests and farm crops grew much more luxuriantly on the north slope, and birds were fairly numerous. Ponds attracted Great and Snowy Egrets, and from one to a dozen Cattle Egrets followed each small herd of cattle. At one acre-size pond Gale pulled off the road while we scanned the water and marshy shores, noting two Chestnut-bellied Herons, a Bare-throated Tiger Heron, many Northern Jacanas (both adult and immature), Killdeer, and Black-necked Stilts. Flocks of Mangrove Swallows wheeled overhead.

On the salt marshes just south of Coatzacoalcos near the Gulf shore we saw at least 40-50 Common Terns, in plumage midway between winter and spring. Color of wings, mantle and tail confirmed identification. Rafts of familiar ducks covered small ponds, and on a not-too-distant shore Camille's scope revealed two Rufescent Tiger Herons. A few moments were spent on a Roadside Hawk, but thereafter this common species was identified with a quick glance. Much more exciting was a close view of a pair of splendid White Hawks at a roadkill.

A tree-lined boulevard led to the business district of Villahermosa, busy capital city of Tabasco. Very narrow streets and heavy traffic combined to challenge Gale's driving skill, till he parked safely in the basement garage of the Hotel Omeca. Our rooms were supplied with mineral water and other cold drinks, and the hotel restaurant's cuisine was excellent. As expected, we paid for quality (my room 150 pesos).

We birded briefly at La Venta, a park near the airport, but could not do justice to its abundant and varied bird life. Among others, we listed Green Heron, Montezuma (Harlequin) Quail, Ruddy Ground Dove, Fawn-breasted Hummingbird, Amazon Kingfisher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Melodius Blackbird, plus many "eastern" warblers such as Black and White, Magnolia, and American Redstart. Somewhat later in the season Mike had added a dozen lifers to an already long list at La Venta.

We did not linger on the 3-hour drive to Palenque, stopping only to put the scope on a perching White-tailed Kite. La Canada tourist cottages a short distance out of town were situated in a delightful birding area, with Bananaquits in the bushes, flocks of Brown Jays (White-tipped form) in the taller trees, and Camille's exacting efforts rewarded with identification of a Tody Flycatcher. Rooms at La Canada were quite adequate, mine at 70 pesos. A tropical-style restaurant provided varied and well-prepared food. A waiter selected green coconuts from a heap in one corner, quickly hacked off the outer shell with a machete, stuck in a straw and served them for our enjoyment. The milk was delicious.

A bus leaves the town of Palenque each morning about 6 a.m. to the ruins, hourly thereafter. So transportation is no problem for the traveler without a car. As we drove the three miles to the famous ruins in early morning, dense fog shrouded everything, heightening the unreality of the age-old stone palace and temples in their dramatic jungle setting. We could visualize the hundreds of slaves who had toiled without tools in tropical heat, and the colorful religious processions that had walked where we were walking. Later Camille climbed the steep steps of the Temple of Inscriptions, and descended inside to the funerary chamber of a prince of Palenque, where reliefs on stone tablets are indicative of the deep significance of the tomb. But on this early morning the birds demanded our attention.

Mango trees attracted the spectacular Keel-billed Toucan and its relative, the Collared Aracari. Anything more tropical in appearance than these two species would be hard to imagine! We had satisfying views, first in flight, then clambering about in the trees high above our heads. Peterson's excellent paintings do not exaggerate their brilliant colors. Two flycatchers identified were Rufous Mourner and Sepia-capped Flycatcher, as well as the numerous Social Flycatcher. Woodpeckers eluded us, though a loud rapping indicated one in the area. Many hummingbirds hesitated briefly in flowering trees, with a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird identified at close range. More cooperative were a Wood Thrush, White-collared Seedeaters, and numerous warblers on winter vacation from the north. Mike on several April visits to Palenque had sighted Aztec Parakeet, White-crowned and Red-lored Parrots, Squirrel and Pheasant Cuckoos, Long-tailed Hermit, Little Hermit, Wedge-tailed Sabrewing, and White-bellied Emerald Hummingbirds, Citrolene and Violaceous Trogons, Blue-crowned Motmot, and many more exciting birds.

Judging from the results of a few hours birding, January is not the month for Palenque.

As one leaves Palenque on the road to the ruins, a rock and gravel road will be noted leading off to the left. We followed this road for nine miles, coming at last to beautiful falls and a clear pool. About a mile below the falls a narrow path had been cut through the heavy vegetation, and flying ahead of us down the path went a Red-throated Ant Tanager. Another good find was the Yellow-bellied Elaenia, one of three small flycatchers with concealed crown patch, and in tall roadside grass was a flock of small finches, at least one of them the Thick-billed Seed Finch.

An over-night attempt to net small owls near my cabin led to unforeseen consequences. Instead of owls, seven Big Brown Bats were tangled in the net next morning. While removing them I was bitten by their razor-sharp teeth, and soon learned that Mexican law requires rabies shots, even though rabid bats have never been found in the region. So we cut short our Palenque visit and returned to Villahermosa, where in her fluent Spanish Camille arranged for my daily shots. She and Gale continued their journey toward Vera Cruz, and I settled down to a routine of daily visits to El Centro de Salud, and what birding I could do within easy walking distance of my motel.

There are two first-class hotels in Villahermosa in the crowded business district, and there is Los Cocos motel, on the edge of the city. Certainly not in the luxury class, but with air-conditioned rooms and plentiful hot water for showers, I found it adequate. In addition to its location, advantages included modest rates (85 pesos) and friendly personnel who did everything for me, from putting me on the right bus to presenting me with a "recuerdo de Villahermosa", a cartoon-type drawing of the early-rising bird watcher. They were warm, friendly people who soon became my friends in spite of the language barrier.

By cutting through backyards I discovered a path leading to a wooded area, where machete-wielding laborers were cutting brush from a hillside. Aztec Parakeets flew over each morning, and flocks of parrots were seen several times at a distance. A hummingbird's nest was that of either the Fawn-breasted or Rufous-tailed Hummingbird as both were seen nearby. Other species included Black-cheeked Woodpecker, White-collared Manakin, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Boat-billed, Social and Great Kiskadee Flycatchers, White-eyed Vireo, Green Honeycreeper, Tropical Parula and many other warblers, and several orioles and tanagers, including the beautiful Blue-gray Tanager.

Birding possibilities of both Palenque and Villahermosa are poorly indicated by these brief lists. Three days of April birding by an expert at Palenque has resulted in 150 species. The many ponds, marshes and wet meadows surrounding Villahermosa should yield many additional

species, including interesting rails, kites, and a profusion of shore birds.

On the day of my 6th shot I flew to Mexico City where I spent the night, and on the following day flew to Mexicali and took a bus to Yuma. At 6 p.m. I had the 7th shot, fulfilling my Mexican doctor's orders not to miss a day. Seven more followed on successive days, and none caused more than minor discomfort. However, any future netting in Mexico will be limited to daylight hours.

Finally, a few words of advice to the first-time visitor. Know and use a few words of Spanish, at least "Por favor" and "Gracias". If not fluent, take and use a small dictionary. Learn Mexican currency. Cheating the Anglo is a fun game, so count your change. For cheap transportation use the bus, only cinqueto centavos (1/2 peso, 4¢); do not expect the driver to make correct change! Travelers checks and credit cards are accepted in larger business places. Take a supply of halazone and use it faithfully. Sodas and small cans of fruit juice may be available, but liquids can be a problem if you do not drink coffee. Slacks and pantsuits are now accepted everywhere, not the case a few years ago. Drip-dries are surely a blessing. Take repellent and use it often, but stay out of tall grass. Even one or two chiggers can be a nuisance; 100 can make life miserable.

"Next time" we will visit Mexico somewhat later in the season, Camille says, and will take time to enjoy those facinating tropical birds.

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BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

by
Allegra Collister

Publications Department
Denver Museum of Natural History
Denver, Colorado 80206

\$1.00

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS FIELD TRIP AT
PUEBLO, COLORADODave A. Griffiths, President
Colorado Field Ornithologists
17 Solar Drive
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

Date: May 18 and 19, 1974: 12th Annual CFO Convention.

Locality: Pueblo, Colorado vicinity -- within sixty mile radius.

Weather: Clear and warm.

Observers: About 50.

Species (151): Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-faced Ibis, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Turkey, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Roadrunner, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Poor-will, Chimney Swift, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Gray Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, White-necked Raven, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Dipper, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Mac Gillivray's Warbler,

Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

No attempt was made to count individuals of each species.

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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

FIELD TRIP CONDUCTED BY COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
 SPONSORED BY DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS TO
 PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND AND MUIR SPRINGS PARK

Jack Reddall
 4450 South Alton Street
 Englewood, Colorado 80110

DATE: July 27, 1974

TIME: 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - MDT WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clear in the morning becoming mostly cloudy to overcast by late afternoon with light rain showers upon return to the Denver area.

MILES COVERED:

By Car: 278
 On Foot: 3
 Total: 281

TOTAL SPECIES OBSERVED: 71

WIND: Northerly, 18-25 m.p.h. in the grasslands; mostly calm later on in the afternoon.

TEMPERATURE: 65 at start; 95 by mid-afternoon.

LOCALITY COVERED: From Denver, Colorado (intersection of I-70 and Chambers Road) to Nunn, Colorado (following U.S. Highway 85) turning eastward about seven miles north of Nunn and following county roads across the Pawnee National Grassland to Grover; then proceeding southeast to Colorado Highway 14 and the hamlet of Buckingham; south from Buckingham on county roads to Weldona, turning eastward again on Colorado Highway 144 to Muir Springs Park and ultimately to Fort Morgan; returning to the Denver area along I-80.

TRIP LEADER: Jack Reddall - Denver Field Ornithologists

OBSERVERS:

Merle Barbour - Denver	Linda Lahman - Greeley
Diane Bergh - Denver	Bill Lyberger - Aurora
D. Bruce Bosley - Boulder	Dr. Thompson Marsh - Denver
Dr. Ward Chadwick - Denver	Marty McGovern - Greeley
Lori Chappell - Denver	Marilyn Miller - Denver
Tom Cooke - Denver	Sadie Morrison - Denver
John Cooper - Denver	Floyd Penell - Denver
Joyce Cooper - Denver	Jim Pinnell - Greeley
Mary Cornelius - Denver	Mary Jane Shock - Denver
Cathy Cowles - Boulder	Arnold Silverman - Denver
Patricia Crist - Fort Collins	Paul Silverman - Denver
Richard Crist - Fort Collins	Allen Stokes - Denver
Ray Fallen - Greeley	David Thomas - Colorado Springs
Virginia Faxon - Denver	Edwina Thomas - Colorado Springs
Dave Griffiths - Pueblo	Gregg Thomas - Colorado Springs
Bob Gustafson - Grand Junction	Pat Thorsberg - Denver
Lorna Gustafson - Grand Junction	Ann Wichmann - Boulder

SPECIES OBSERVED:

- Pied-billed Grebe - 5 (a family group of male, female and three small chicks)
White Pelican - 10 (observed at Barr Lake on return to Denver)
Great Blue Heron - 1
Mallard - 35
Gadwall - 25
Blue-winged Teal - 1
Redhead - 2
Ruddy Duck - 2
Red-tailed Hawk - 2
Swainson's Hawk - 8
Ferruginous Hawk - 6 (including an obvious family group sitting on rock outcroppings near Keota)
Golden Eagle - 1 adult (under attack by a Swainson's Hawk)
Prairie Falcon - 1
Sparrow Hawk - 5
Virginia Rail - 2 (heard in the marsh at Muir Springs but couldn't lure into the open even with tape recorder)
Killdeer - 2
Mountain Plover - 2 (seen well by all observers)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 (Muir Springs Park)
Greater Yellowlegs - 3 (observed on a small pond along I-80)
Ring-billed Gull - 1
Franklin's Gull - 11
Rock Dove - 15
Mourning Dove - 285
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 (Muir Springs Park, but seen by only a couple of observers)
Burrowing Owl - 3
Common Nighthawk - 8
Belted Kingfisher - 2 (Muir Springs Park)
Red-shafted Flicker - 1
Red-headed Woodpecker - 2 (one seen at Muir Springs Park; one observed on telephone pole near Barr Lake)
Downy Woodpecker - 2
Eastern Kingbird - 7
Western Kingbird - 35
Say's Phoebe - 3
Western Wood Pewee - 2
Horned Lark - 450
Rough-winged Swallow - 1
Barn Swallow - 70
Cliff Swallow - 3
Blue Jay - 3
Black-billed Magpie - 3 (where were they?)
Black-capped Chickadee - 4
House Wren - 6
Mockingbird - 2

Brown Thrasher - 3
Sage Thrasher - 1
Robin - 10
Loggerhead Shrike - 23
Starling - 150
Yellowthroat - 9
House Sparrow - 100
Western Meadowlark - 130
Red-winged Blackbird - 50
Bullock's Oriole - 6
Orchard Oriole - 2 males (Muir Springs Park, seen well by several
observers)
Common Grackle - 10
Brown-headed Cowbird - 1
Western Tanager - 1 male (Muir Springs Park, seen well by at least three
observers)
Black-headed Grosbeak - 1 female (seen by two observers, strangely on
the grasslands)
Blue Grosbeak - 2 males, singing (Muir Springs Park, seen well by one
observer)
Indigo Bunting - 1 male, singing (Muir Springs Park, seen well by one
observer)
House Finch - 1
American Goldfinch - 1
Lark Bunting - 1850 (obviously beginning to flock in huge numbers on the
grasslands)
Grasshopper Sparrow - 1
Vesper Sparrow - 1
Lark Sparrow - 7
Chipping Sparrow - 100 (large numbers quite surprising for this time of
year on plains)
Brewer's Sparrow - 40
Song Sparrow - 2 (Muir Springs Park)
McCown's Longspur - 20 (well observed by all observers)
Chestnut-collared Longspur - 16 (also well seen by all observers)

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS FIELD TRIP
AT DURANGO, COLORADO

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

Date: August 10, 1974. Time: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Locality: Durango, Colorado vicinity -- north of Durango; Haviland Lake; Purgatory Ski Area - up to Hermosa Trail - to Hermosa Park - back down through Durango - south to Ignacio; Arboles, and Navajo Reservoir.

Weather: Clear and cool in a.m. to warm in p.m.

Observers (12): Christine Bonny (Denver); Sophia Bogart (Aurora); Gene and Robbie Elliott (Boulder); Tom, Kay and Eunice Frizell (Durango); Dave Griffiths (Pueblo); Paul and Bernice Merry (Littleton); Marlene Pixler (Durango); and Kip Stransky (Durango).

Species (76): Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Phalarope, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Dusky Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Common Crow, Pinon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, Gray Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mac Gillivray's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Gray-headed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

No attempt was made to count individuals of each species.

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COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNT FOR 1973

compiled by

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

Full details of twenty of the twenty-three 1973 Colorado Christmas Counts appear in *American Birds*, Volume 28, Number 2, April 1974, pages 473-480.

Black Forest -- December 23, 1973. Richard Beidleman, compiler. 11 observers. 26 species, about 660 individuals.

Bonny Reservoir -- December 30, 1973. Paul Julian, compiler. 10 observers. 58 species; about 34,816 individuals. Of note: 1 Wood Duck, 1 Virginia Rail, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 40 Harris' Sparrows, and 3 Snow Buntings.

Boulder -- December 15, 1973. Richard Weppner, compiler. 96 observers. 105 species; about 30,111 individuals. Of note: 1 Black-crowned Night Heron, 1 Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Sandhill Crane, 2 Virginia Rails, 8 Lesser Yellowlegs (no details), 4 Franklin's Gulls, 1 House Wren (no details), 2 Hermit Thrush (no details), 1 Western Bluebird, 1 *Phainopepla* (photographed - second Colorado record), 1 Virginia's Warbler, 1 Lesser Goldfinch (no details), 3 Savannah Sparrows (no details), 4 Chipping Sparrows (no details), 2 Clay-colored Sparrows (no details), and 1 Black-chinned Sparrow (poor details). Three additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Colorado Springs -- December 15, 1973. Elinor Wills, compiler. 38 observers. 73 species; about 8,124 individuals. Of note: 1 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 83(?) Chipping Sparrows (no details), 2 Fox Sparrows, and 38 Lapland Longspurs. Six additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day, including Rusty Blackbird.

Denver -- December 15, 1973. David Hutchinson, compiler. 119 observers. 107 species; about 23,812 individuals. Of note: 1 *Red-throated Loon* (second Colorado record), 22 Wood Ducks, 2 Greater Scaup, 1 Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 Oldsquaw, 1 White-winged Scoter, 10 Hooded Merganser, 1 Glaucous Gull, 3 California Gulls, 2 White-necked Ravens, and 1 Common Yellowthroat. Three additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Durango -- December 29, 1973. Richard Stransky, compiler. 12 observers. 52 species; about 5,750 individuals. Of note: 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. One additional species was seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Evergreen - Idaho Springs -- December 16, 1973. Douglas Stotz, compiler. 37 observers. 47 species; about 2,802 individuals. Of note: 6 White-winged Crossbills. Two additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Fort Collins -- December 22, 1973. Ronald A. Ryder, compiler. 35 observers. 69 species; about 16,921 individuals. Of note: 1 Common Loon, 1 Western Grebe, 1 Oldsquaw, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 2 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers. One additional species was seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Grand Junction -- December 15, 1973. Lorna Gustafson, compiler. 22 observers. 74 species; about 35,775 individuals. Of note: 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 23 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers, and 1 Lark Sparrow.

Gunnison -- December 30, 1973. Sidney Hyde, compiler. 12 observers. 36 species; about 1,857 individuals. Of note: 1 *Great-tailed Grackle*. Three additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Hotchkiss -- December 16, 1973. Theodora Colburn, compiler. 4 observers. 59 species; about 6,781 individuals. Of note: 1 Red-headed Woodpecker (photographed; present all month), 1 Say's Phoebe, and 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird. Five additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Lake Isabel -- December 23, 1973. Van Truan, compiler. 8 observers. 33 species; about 1,344 individuals. Of note: 1 Turkey, and 1 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (no details). One additional species was seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Longmont -- December 22, 1973. Ron Harden, compiler. 39 observers. 76 species; about 39,370 individuals. Of note: 1 Varied Thrush and 5 Fox Sparrows. Two additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day, including a Pygmy Owl which was observed catching and eating a House Finch.

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge -- December 18, 1973. Stanley Cornelius, compiler. 2 observers. 28 species; about 20,876 individuals. Of note: 28 Bald Eagles (16 adults and 12 immatures). This report is not included in *American Birds* -- consult *The Lark Bunting*, Volume 9, number 4, January 1974 for details.

Nunn -- December 18, 1973. Clait Braun, compiler. 12 observers. 18 species; about 3,801 individuals. Of note: 1 Killdeer and 1 Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

Pike's Peak -- December 31, 1973. Libby Goodwin, compiler. 34 observers. 46 species; about 3,902 individuals. Of note: 35 Canada Geese (first time on this count), and 104 Rufous-sided Towhees.

Pueblo -- December 22, 1973. Dave Griffiths, compiler. 8 observers. 73 species; about 18,330 individuals. Of note: 1 Ladder-backed Woodpecker, 1 Curve-billed Thrasher, 2 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers, 1 Rusty Blackbird, 1 *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* (description complete; third Colorado record), and 1 Swamp Sparrow. One additional species was seen during the count period, but not on count day.

Red Feather Lakes -- January 1, 1974. Gustav A. Swanson, compiler. 41 observers. 27 species; about 854 individuals. This report is not included in *American Birds* -- consult *Ptarmigan*, Volume 5, number 1, January 1974 for details.

Rocky Mountain National Park -- December 15, 1973. Helen and Ronald A. Ryder, compilers. 45 observers. 38 species; about 1,365 individuals. Of note: 5 Barrow's Goldeneye (regular winter visitors), 1 White-tailed Ptarmigan, and 2 Common Crows (with Common Ravens).

Spanish Peaks -- December 15, 1973. Dave Griffiths, compiler. 4 observers. 28 species; about 1,015 individuals.

Walden -- December 23, 1973. John L. Wagner, compiler. 1 observer (?). 19 species; about 327 individuals. Of note: 40 Sage Grouse (15 males and 25 females), and 1 male Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. This report is not included in *American Birds*.

Westcliffe -- December 21, 1973. Van Truan, compiler. 3 observers. 29 species; about 1,684 individuals. Of note: 1 Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Yuma -- December 13, 1973. Robert E. Glover, compiler. 3 observers. 12 species; about 245 individuals.

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COLORADO SPRING COUNT FOR 1974

compiled by

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

Baca County -- May 11, 1974. Hugh Kingery (?) compiler. 5 observers. 82 species; about 2,481 individuals. Of note: 6 Mississippi Kites, 3 Turkey, 10 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, 3 White-necked Ravens, 33 Orchard Orioles, 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 13 Grasshopper Sparrows, 11 Cassin's Sparrows, and 2 Field Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

Bonny Reservoir -- May 11, 1974. (?) compiler. 4 observers. 101 species; about 2,656 individuals. Of note: 1 Green Heron, 1 Prothonotary Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 80 Clay-colored Sparrows, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 1 White-throated Sparrow. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

Boulder -- May 11, 1974. Louise Herring, compiler. 47 observers. 137 species; about 5,528 individuals. Of note: 1 Green Heron, 1 Tennessee Warbler, 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers, and 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

Colorado Springs -- May 12, 1974, (?) compiler. 41 observers. 146 species; about 8,269 individuals. Of note: 1 Little Blue Heron, 9 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 4 Mountain Plover, 2 White-necked Ravens, 1 Tennessee Warbler, 2 Nashville Warblers, 2 Parula Warblers, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 1 Canada Warbler, 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 1 Harris' Sparrow. Thirteen additional species were seen during the count period, but not on count day, including Green Heron and Red Crossbill. For additional observations consult Vol. 15, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Aikorns*.

Denver -- (including Barr Lake, Lower Bear Creek, Willow Springs, Muir Springs, and Plum Creek). May 11, 1974. (?) compiler. 19 observers. 154 species; about 3,671 individuals. Of note: 25 White Pelicans, 1 Cattle Egret, 3 Black-bellied Plover, 1 Tennessee Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, and 1 Harris' Sparrow. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

Durango -- May 18, 1974. (?) compiler. 14 observers. 80 species; about 7,140 individuals. Of note: 1 Bald Eagle, 2 Black-necked Stilts, 1 Poorwill, 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and 6 Ash-throated Flycatchers.

Fort Collins -- May 25, 1974. Audrey, Helen, and Ronald A. Ryder, compilers. 32 observers. 125 species; about 7,663 individuals. Of note: 1 Least Bittern, 1 Ferruginous Hawk, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 Prothonotary Warbler (in area since May 12), 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 1 Indigo Bunting. For additional observations consult Vol. 5, no. 6-9, June-September 1974 of the *Ptarmigan*.

Longmont -- May 11, 1974. (?) compiler. 26 observers. 143 species; about 11,464 individuals. Of note: 1 Common Loon, 2 Wood Ducks, 2 Bobwhite, 3 Burrowing Owls, 153 White-throated Swifts, 1 Grace's Warbler, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 1 Indigo Bunting, 6 Red Crossbills, 2 Fox Sparrows, and 1 Swamp Sparrow. For additional observations consult Vol. 2, no. 5, May-June 1974 of the *Dipper*.

Park County -- May 11, 1974. (?) compiler. 3 observers. 77 species; about 1,398 individuals. Of note: 9 Greater Scaup, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 13 Savannah Sparrows. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

Pueblo -- May 11, 1974. Dave Griffiths, compiler. 25 observers. 182 species; about 11,246 individuals. Of note: 3 White Pelicans, 2 Common Egrets, 1 Mississippi Kite, 1 Goshawk, 2 Snowy Plovers, 302 Black-bellied Plovers, 9 Black-necked Stilts, 1 Black Phoebe, 2 White-necked Ravens, 1 Curve-billed Thrasher, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, and 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Rocky Mountain National Park -- May 11, 1974. Warner Reeser, compiler. 13 observers. 73 species; about 1,178 individuals. Of note: 4 White-faced Ibis, 2 Goshawks, 1 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Eastern Kingbirds, 2 Brown Thrashers, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2 Lark Sparrows, 1 Clay-colored Sparrow, and 1 Brewer's Sparrow. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed during the count week, but not on count day. For additional observations consult Vol. 9, no. 9, June 1974 of *The Lark Bunting*.

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CHANGES, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE OFFICIAL STATE
LIST OF THE BIRDS OF COLORADO AS PUBLISHED JUNE 1, 1973
BY THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

ADD: Boat-tailed Grackle (Photograph)
ADD: Kentucky Warbler (Sight Report)
DELETE: Scott's Oriole (Sight Report)
CHANGE: Golden-winged Warbler (From Sight Report to Photograph)
DELETE: Hooded Oriole (Sight Report)
ADD: Smith's Longspur (Sight Report)
CHANGE: Gray-cheeked Thrush (From Sight Report to Specimen)
CHANGE: Varied Thrush (From Sight Report to Photograph)
CHANGE: Kentucky Warbler (From Sight Report to Photograph)
ADD: Anna's Hummingbird (Sight Report)
CHANGE: Bay-breasted Warbler (From Sight Report to Photograph)
CHANGE: Parasitic Jaeger (From Sight Report to Photograph)
DELETE: Inca Dove (Sight Report)
DELETE: Caracara (Specimen-Escape?)
ADD: White-eyed Vireo (Sight Report)
ADD: Caspian Tern (Photograph)

With the above additions and deletions, the Official State List now totals 428 species as of July 1, 1974.

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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

BLACK VULTURE -- *Coragyps atratus*

The CFO Official Records Committee has examined evidence to corroborate the sightings of Black Vultures in the vicinity of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument on July 20, 1954; June 1956 and June 7, 1966. The Committee was unable to uncover any concrete evidence to support these reported sightings. Thus they have been rejected. The Black Vulture as yet remains to be reported satisfactorily within Colorado.

Chairman's Comment:

An undated *Check-List of Birds of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Vicinity* as compiled by Park Naturalist Warren H. Hill and Ranger-Naturalist George West lists the Black Vulture as a "Rare Summer Visitor". The Chairman wrote to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument regarding the details supporting the occurrence of Black Vultures in the Monument area. Mr. Garth Nelson, Chief, I&RM, provided a copy of their observation card for this species. This card depicted the following information:

An entry dated 7/20/54 states, "This vulture observed flying low over the checking station around 11 A.M. New recording. Harold Schaafsma."

Another handwritten entry dated 6-56 simply states, "Also seen in June."

A third and last entry dated 6-7-66, "Several seen (10) in area of V.C. and Medrano Creek below picnic area."

The Chairman received a copy of a letter dated March 21, 1974 from Warren H. Hill, who is now Superintendent of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS on Long Island, New York, to Mr. Nelson in which he discusses his recollections surrounding this matter. Mr. Hill writes (in part), "It's always good to hear from 'one of your old parks' but, I am afraid I cannot be of much help regarding the Black Vulture observation. I have been following the activities of the Colorado Field Ornithologists through their monthly journal and have noticed the establishment of the Official Records Committee. They have, and rightfully so, established some fairly rigorous standards for bird records within the state. The same standards were not applied to the check-list of birds which George West and I prepared at Great Sand Dunes National Monument. If your files do not contain a sight record card for the Black Vulture with adequate substantiation of the sighting, I suggest it be deleted the next time the list is prepared. I certainly cannot ever recall seeing one there."

As one Committee Member was moved to say, "lots of words but little convincing evidence of species identification." The occurrence of a Black Vulture in Colorado would of course be unusual, but not unexpected. There is a fairly good probability that eventually it will be satisfactorily recorded in our state.

In passing, it should be noted that the Official Records Committee, when preparing the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado, threw out the Black Vulture sighting near Pueblo on May 27, 1953 as also too inconclusive (see *Birds of Colorado*, Bailey and Niedrack (1965), Volume 1, page 191).

July 4, 1974. File No. N-10-40

ROSE-THROATED BECARD -- *Platypsaris algaiae*

A report of a Rose-throated Becard killed along the road near Pine, Jefferson County on May 12, 1973 has been investigated by the CFO Official Records Committee. Due to the very limited information provided by the person submitting the report, the Committee voted for rejection and not to add this species to the State List.

Chairman's Comment:

Unfortunately the person making the report did not preserve the specimen. Also, at the time he examined this road-kill he had no field guides available nor any other reference material. And finally, the reporter himself allowed as how he was "not too familiar with western birds." The Rose-throated Becard belongs to a tropical group of birds classified as Cotingas and barely reaches the United States in southeastern Arizona and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas as a summer visitor. An occurrence within the borders of Colorado would be an unusual record indeed. All Colorado field observers are urged to save any and all dead specimens of suspected rare and unusual or new species. The Chairman or any member of the Official Records Committee would be most happy to receive and examine these specimens as would staff members of the Denver Museum of Natural History and the biology departments of any of our state universities. Particular caution must be observed when giving consideration to road-kills however, since a bird can be hit by a car and carried hundreds, even thousands of miles before dropping off, thus always providing an element of doubt.

July 4, 1974. File No. N-33A-41

CASPIAN TERN -- *Hydroprogne caspia*

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed written documentation and photographic evidence to support the occurrence of one Caspian Tern at Lake Henry, Crowley County on May 27 and 28, 1974. The Committee voted to accept this record and to add the Caspian Tern to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado. This bird was first observed on May 27, 1974 by Dave Griffiths of Pueblo and Jack Reddali of Englewood. On the following day black and white photographs were obtained by Stan W. Oswald of Rocky Ford.

Chairman's Comment:

As one Committee Member commented, "it's about time we found this species." Caspian Terns have been recorded in most of the states bordering on Colorado, so it is certainly not startling to have finally come across one in our state. Mr. Oswald's photographs turned out superbly. One caught the bird in flight which clearly depicts the dusky or dark wing primaries from below. Another shows the bird at rest at the water's edge in the company of two Ring-billed Gulls, one California Gull, one Forster's Tern and one Franklin's Gull. It's extremely large size and massive bill are clearly depicted. The Committee is very appreciative of receiving Mr. Oswald's excellent photographs to support this record. Detailed written documentation was supplied by Dave Griffiths and Jack Reddall.

July 4, 1974. File No. N-32-42.

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- *Vireo griseus*

Written reports substantiating the sight report of a White-eyed Vireo just below the dam impounding Two Buttes Reservoir, Baca County on May 10, 1974 have been reviewed by the CFO Official Records Committee. Based upon the documentation submitted, the Committee has ruled to accept this record and add the White-eyed Vireo to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado. Detailed written reports were received from Paul Julian of Boulder, Hugh Kingery of Denver, Doug Stotz of Evergreen and Urling Cannon of Denver.

Chairman's Comment:

All observers provided excellent details and *all key field marks* were observed and documented.

Paul Julian mentions, "white eye seen clearly; yellow flanks with rest of underparts whitish; vireo bill; double white wing-bar very clear; very yellow lores and forehead."

Hugh Kingery reported, "Vireo by size, and heavy bill, long but not thick like a finch. The bird had yellow lores which went from bill to the eye and then diffused around the eye; the pupil of the eye was black, the iris white. It had two white wing-bars, gray breast, definite yellow sides. The center of the belly was white. It had a greenish-gray back and rump. It fed very deliberately in a chokecherry thicket. It really did not move much, so that we could approach very closely and even observe field marks with the naked eye."

Doug Stotz, who first found and identified the bird states, "the bird was approximately the same size as a Bell's Vireo although it appeared slightly larger. The bill was thicker than that of a warbler. It had a green back with slightly darker wings. The wings showed two strong white wing-bars. The eye was definitely and obviously white; the spectacles were a strong yellow. The undersides were white except on the flanks which were bright yellow."

Urling Cannon also mentions, "yellow line from beak to eyes; white iris; yellow down sides of breast."

All four observers stated that the bird was silent throughout the period of observation. In addition, the observers reported that at various times anywhere from one to three Bell's Vireos were also present, providing a good point for comparison. At least two of the observers had had prior field experience with this species.

July 4, 1974. File No. N-51-38

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- *Vermivora pinus*

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed written documentation to support the sighting of one Blue-winged Warbler along Van Bibber Creek in the vicinity of Hogback Gap near Golden in Jefferson County on May 23, 1961. Based upon the data presented, the Official Records Committee has ruled to reject this sight report as too inconclusive to add this species to the State List of Colorado birds.

Chairman's Comment:

This observation was made over thirteen years ago, long before the establishment of the CFO Official Records Committee with its very stringent acceptance criteria. Unfortunately, the documentation provided did not convince the Committee. Had the observer been aware of the importance of detailed reporting, as many Colorado observers are

practising today, he quite possibly would have been inclined to provide more complete and thorough details -- a good lesson for all of us.

July 1, 1974. File No. N-52-16

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- *Vermivora pinus*

Written documentation submitted to substantiate the sighting of one Blue-winged Warbler at Barr Lake in Adams County on September 18, 1965 has been reviewed by the CFO Official Records Committee. Due to the fact that the details of this sight report were quite sketch and provided for the most part from memory, the Committee had no choice but to rule to reject it thus precluding this species from being added to the Official State List of the birds of Colorado.

Chairman's Comment:

The same comments apply to this record as for the previous Blue-winged Warbler report (N-52-16). The Committee will continue to require complete and accurate documentation.

July 1, 1974. File No. N-52-39

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- *Vermivora pinus*

The CFO Official Records Committee has completed its review of a new species reported from the state, the Blue-winged Warbler. Based upon the documentation presented to support this sight report, the Committee has ruled to accept this species and approve its inclusion on the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado. Three observers are credited with making this observation, recording the occurrence and supplying details to the Committee. On May 9, 1970, Mr. Willis C. Royall, Jr. of Lakewood and Mr. C. Edward Knittle of Arvada observed one adult Blue-winged Warbler along the north bank of the South Platte River near the Kassler Water Works at Waterton, Jefferson County. Mr. Knittle first observed the bird about 8:00 A.M. He notified Mr. Royall who independently found and observed apparently the same bird about 11:00 A.M. On the following day, May 10, Mr. Hugh Kingery of Denver successfully located this bird at the same site at approximately 5:00 A.M. All three observers submitted written reports of their sightings. Mr. Knittle reported (in part):

"Small size, about size of Virginia's Warbler or Parula. The characteristics that immediately caught my eye were the black beak, black eye-line and solid yellow chest and undersides. Wings were bluish with

wing-bars. Flitted among low bushes along the river bank. The bird was silent."

Mr. Royall stated (in part):

"I spotted the bird so close to me that binoculars were almost a hindrance. It remained in the open and I had an unobstructed view for only a few seconds, but there was no doubt whatever. The narrow black eye-line and the white wing-bars were quite distinct along with the generally bright yellow head and underparts. It was actively foraging among the thickets and vines along the river bottom. The bird was silent."

Mr. Royall further stated that he was very familiar with this species from Connecticut where he found them nesting.

Mr. Kingery reported (in part):

"I walked to the place where it had been, about one-quarter of a mile below the bridge at Waterton, walked through the viny grove of box elder, grape and cottonwood and heard the bird singing -- a song I had not heard before. About ten feet away I observed a perfectly marked male of gold and blue markings. It sang for some time and was not particularly bashful."

Chairman's Comment:

Undoubtedly it was only a matter of time until a well documented report was received to support a sighting of a Blue-winged Warbler. The Committee is currently reviewing two additional reports of sightings of this species made subsequent to the May 9 and 10, 1970 occurrence. Results of these investigations will be published when the Committee has concluded its review.

July 30, 1974. File No. N-52-43

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