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C.F.O.
Journal

No. 32, Winter, 1978

Western Meadowlark

Joseph C. Rigli

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The C.F.O. Journal, formerly the Colorado Field Ornithologist, is a journal devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest, and reports of unusual observations, are solicited. Send manuscripts, with photos and drawings, to Hugh Kingery, Editor, 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver, Colorado 80206.

C.F.O. JOURNAL STAFF:

Editor	Hugh Kingery
Typists	Karen Miller Vi Hubka

Send inquiries about membership to the Treasurer, and about subscriptions, address changes, and the like, to the Executive Secretary.

* * * * *

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Please direct correspondence and reports to the Chairman, C.F.O. Records Committee, c/o Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

May 20-21, 1978

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Colorado Field Ornithologists will occur at Sylvandale Ranch, nine miles west of Loveland, Colorado, on the banks of the Big Thompson River. Field trips will go to Rocky Mountain National Park and to the Pawnee National Grassland. The Foothills Audubon Club will handle arrangements. We encourage attendees to stay at the ranch Friday and Saturday nights (\$10 per person including breakfast).

Registration information is available from Mrs. Camille Cummings, P. O. Box 109, Berthoud, Colorado 80513.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Colorado Field Ornithologists invite persons to present research papers on field ornithology at the Annual Convention. Papers must refer to subjects of interest to the organization, and may not exceed 20 minutes in length. Persons wishing to present papers should submit an abstract of the paper, along with an itemization of necessary equipment, by April 15, to:

Dr. Walter Graul
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216.

Dr. Graul chairs the committee which will accept papers and schedule them. Presentation of the papers will occur on the afternoon of May 20.

C.F.O. FIELD TRIPS

April 23	Lesser Prairie Chicken hunt, Baca County. Dave Griffiths, Leader. Meet at Starlite Motel, Springfield, at 6:00 a.m.
May 6-7	Lathrop State Park and Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Camping facilities at Lathrop as well as a motel across the highway. Meet at 12:00 Noon, May 6, at Visitor's Center at Lathrop, west of Walsenburg. Or meet at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 7, at Sand Dunes Visitors' Center. Elinor Wills, Leader. Last year a Pileated Woodpecker was reported at the Sand Dunes in early May. Also, a big forest fire at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico has attracted myriad woodpeckers to the site, including at least four Pileateds.
Date Uncertain	Sage Grouse display, Western Slope. Contact Bill Huntley, 1720 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, 81501.

NOTES

The Winter, 1977 issue of the C.F.O. Journal, No. 29, featured an article by James R. Rees on Pygmy Owl observations in Gunnison County. The research from which he drew the information for the article was funded by the Atlantic Richfield Company, which kindly gave permission for publication. The editor, and the author, thank Atlantic Richfield for sponsoring the study and for making the data available.

* * *

When you pay your income tax, you will discover that Line 23 on the form allows you to earmark \$1, \$5, or \$10 to the Non-game Wildlife Cash Fund, and thus help fund that program in the future. You may earmark your money only if your return allows you to receive a refund of taxes--that is, it will constitute a contribution of a portion of your refund.

The Non-game program funds the protection of the hundreds of non-game species within the Division of Wildlife, and support from the public will impress the legislature to further support. It stresses habitat protection for threatened and endangered species. The Non-game Department will support publication of the Colorado Bird Distribution study (the Latilong study), co-sponsored by C.F.O.

The effectiveness of the program will depend directly upon the number of us who support the fund with our refunds--you and your friends.

-- H.E.K.

* * *

The Division of Wildlife, Non-game Department, has republished the pamphlet, "Cities and Birds", by Walter D. Graul. It briefly addresses ways to attract birds to urban areas--feeders, bird houses, habitat, and care of nests and young. It also discusses bird problems, like flickers drumming on attics and control of exotics like pigeons and starlings. They are available, free, from the Division, 6060 Broadway, Denver 80216.

* * *

A communication: During the course of a hawk migration study conducted in the Wellsville Mountains in northeastern Utah, we observed flocks of Clark's Nutcrackers moving south. Nutcrackers were first sighted on August 27, 1977, and continued to be seen daily until September 29. More than 1500 nutcrackers were counted in flocks of 1 to 42 with a mean of 10 birds. These birds traveled in very loose flocks along the ridge of the mountain, were silent, and did not harvest and store pine seeds as did the resident birds in the area. Nutcrackers were seen at six other mountainous locations from 100 miles west to 30 miles east of the Wellsville Mountains, suggesting that the birds moved through Utah on a broad front.

Nutcrackers, typically, are non-migratory but respond to conifer seed shortages by immigrating. Nutcrackers should be looked for in unusual areas this winter and flocks migrating north at high elevations should be looked for in early spring. We would appreciate receiving any information on unusual nutcracker sightings and migratory movements.

--Steve Hoffman, Wayne Potts, and Steve Vander Wall
Department of Biology, Utah State University,
Logan, Utah, 84322.

SPRING SEASON - 1977

by Robert Andrews

It was one of those springs that was better for birds than for people who watch them, who complained often about both the quantity and quality of spring migrants. Arriving species were often late in appearing, and numbers of many species remained low all season. At Waterton, there were no warblers seen on May 14, when warblers are normally peaking. At Boulder, the migration was estimated to have been only 30% of normal. Although a few species made impressive showings this spring, the rule was the other way. Among the species showing low numbers were peeps, Empidonax flycatchers, Catharus thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, many warblers and sparrows, and Western Tanager. Many species which had scarcely appeared on the plains were in good numbers in the foothill pine forests by mid-May, indicating that most migrants overflow the plains. Additionally, it was noted that at Boulder it was the foothill canyons that produced the best birds, whereas the traditional hot spots a bit further out had a dismal showing overall.

The weather, of course, is what gets blamed for poor migrations seasons in Colorado (and credited for good ones). Most of Colorado had a dry spring with very few cold fronts of any importance, and consistent, strong south winds blew for a good part of May. These two factors appeared to conspire to cause quick, easy northward passage of migrants, with little concentration of migrants on the ground.

The scarcity of many, normally common species was the hallmark of the season overall, but the quantity and quality of rarities is the measurement by which most birders judge a migration season. Denver, Boulder, Julesburg Res. area and Bonny Res. (and other localities as well perhaps) all were frustrating in their relative lack of rarities. Yet, perusal of the account below shows that many fine birds were indeed found. Most notable were the impressive numbers of Little Blue and Louisiana Herons, Great Crested Flycatchers and Scarlet Tanagers, and of course, Colorado had its first Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (Poliophtila melanura). All told, Colorado observers saw 339 species.

Common Loon-A notably late report was 2 at Julesburg Res. June 4.

Red-necked Grebe-A hard to find bird, with only 20 records total and 5 in spring, so 1 in nonbreeding plumage on Union Res. Mar 5(RA) was a good find.

White Pelican-Riverside Res. had a peak of 850; this is 20% more than in 1976.

Green Heron-18 were reported, all from eastern localities except 1 in Browns Park NWR June 8.

Great Egret-9 were reported this spring, better than in 1976.

Snowy Egret-Many observers commented on the virtual absence on this bird in eastern Colorado: some active field people never even saw one during May.

*Little Blue Heron-More were reported than ever before in one season in Colorado: 1 LaSalle Apr 26-May 20(PG), 2 Ft. Collins May 7-8(CC,HG), 1 McCoy May 15-16 (ME), 2 Barr Lake May 17(RA). There are now 17 records from Colorado.

*Louisiana Heron-Outstanding was three observations of this species (the 6th -8th for the state): 1 on Platte R. at Riverside Res. May 22-31 (GM), 1 Pueblo Res. May 30(CK), 1 Wellington, Larimer Co. May 31 (MJ,JS).

Cattle Egret-1 Pueblo May 14(DG), 2 Riverside Res. May 27(GM) and 2 Fruita(DG) were the 26-28th records for the state.

*CFO Records Committee will review

**Species new to Colorado; to be reviewed by CFO ORC

Yellow-crowned Night Heron-2 at Boulder Apr 22(H) was the 31st Colorado record.

Ross' Goose-3 were at Pueblo Mar 26(DF0), there are now 31 state records.

Snow Goose-Numbers came through at Bonny Res. in 2 waves: 1200 on Mar 25 and 800 on Apr 6.

Blue Goose-Observed at Bonny Res.: 1 Mar 5, 12 Mar 25, 1 Apr 7(MM).

Wood Duck-One at Antero Res. Apr 25 was at an unusual location (PG).

Ruddy Duck-2000+ at Colorado Springs Apr 23 may be the highest recent count from a single locality in Colorado.

Common Merganser-1 at Timnath Res. May 29 was a very late record.

Mississippi Kite-1 adult at Ovid, Sedgwick Co. May 29(RA,BK,SL) was the state's northernmost record as it was just a few miles from the northern border. E. Colorado had several reports: 1 Bonny May 11(MM), 2 ad. Burlington June 2(BM), 3(2 ad., 1 imm.) Bonny June 3(BM). This spring's observations document this species' continuing spread northward from Baca Co. and the Arkansas River, where the species first appeared in Colorado and has nested.

Accipiters-26 Sharp-shinned and 29 Cooper's Hawks compare favorably with last spring's tally of 22 and 18.

Broad-winged Hawk-Eight reported this year.

Peregrine Falcon-Only two migrants this spring: 1 Weld Co. Apr 1, 1 Jackson Res. Apr 25.

Scaled Quail-The observation of 3 at Bonny May 14 shows that this species is still present at the northernmost fringe of its Colorado range.

Sandhill Crane-High eastern counts were 400 at Bonny Mar 5 and 200 at Riverside Mar 27. Semipalmated Plover-Ft. Collins had an unusually high count of 27 Apr 24-30.

*Piping Plover-From 5-7 were at Bonny Res. Apr 16-30(m.ob.).

Snowy Plover-1 at Bonny Apr 28 was the only northeastern Colorado report this spring.

Black-bellied Plover-As usual, greatest concentrations came from Arkansas Valley, where there were 49 on May 7.

Long-billed Curlew-100+ in Baca Co. May 26-28 was an impressive count.

Whimbrel-After last spring's impressive flight, there was only 1 report this spring, and that from the west slope where there are very few records: 4 Durango May 3 (EF).

Ruddy Turnstone-2 Red Lion May 15(BK,SL) was the only report, about average.

Stilt Sandpiper-1 Julesburg Res. June 4 was very late.

*Buff-breasted Sandpiper-1 at Wray May 1(SB,PY) was notable: there are only 15 Colorado records, and only one other spring record (Idalia on 11 May 1973). More extensive searching on the eastern fringe in May should produce other sightings.

*Hudsonian Godwit-With 2 consecutive Memorial Day sightings, Red Lion is establishing itself as the place to find this bird: this year 1 was seen May 28(RA,BK,SL,BL), the 9th state record.

*Ruff-Most outstanding bird of the season was Colorado's first record, found near Prospect Res. on May 30 by Reddall and subsequently seen by many others up to June 4. A second bird, believed to be a female (Reeve) was reported in company with the first bird on May 31(MOS).

Black-necked Stilt-There were a number of reports as usual, but 14+ all season at Nelson Res. (near Fossil Creek Res.) (CC) was a significant number, probably unequalled in that part of the state.

Wilson's Phalarope-2 in NE Colorado Apr 2 were quite early.

Glaucous Gull-4 Ft. Collins Mar 5(JRo), 1 Union Res. Mar 5(m.ob.), 1 Boulder May 6(BL) 1 ad. CCRA Mar 13-19(m.ob.).

*Thayer's Gull-1 imm CCRA Feb 5(JR), 2 imm. CCRA Mar 6-Apr 2(m.ob.), 1 subad. CCRA Mar 5-25(SL,VR,JR), 1 imm. Prewitt Apr 8(JR).

*Laughing Gull-1 at CCRA Apr 17(TM) was the 14th record for Colorado.

Franklin's Gull-Noted to be very scarce this spring.

Bonaparte's Gull-1 on Pawnee NG June 5(PM) was very late.

- Forster's Tern-2 at Ft. Collins Mar 25(LHa) were extremely early.
 Common Tern-A total of 11 were reported in late May.
 Black Tern-800+ were present on Julesburg Res. May 21(BK,SL), indicative of the large numbers of migrants moving through eastern Colorado in late May.
- *White-winged Dove-1 at Nunn on May 3(SA,RP,VRe,VS)was the 8th record for Colorado.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo-The weekend of May 28-30 produced 5 individuals along the Platte R. Logan-Sedowick Cos. and 5 in Baca Co.: whether this is normal or not is hard to say.
- Black-billed Cuckoo-A pair observed mating and starting nest construction on May 28-29 (m.ob.) seemed like a good sign, but they couldn't be located later in the season.
 A probable pair of this species was at Tamarack Ranch May 21.
- Saw-whet Owl-One was at Crow Valley Park on Mar 13(MC,KF). Whether the bird was a migrant or a wintering bird would be most interesting to know.
- Poor-will-1 at Bonny on Apr 16(MJ)was quite early. Three more later in the season from far eastern localities, so the species is clearly regular that far east.
- Chimney Swift-1 at Boulder Mar 17(SL)was extremely early.
 Calliope Hummingbird-1 at Colorado Springs May 15(AAS)was interesting as spring records are very few.
- Common Flicker-At least 5 Yellow-shafted or Red-yellow intergrades were seen from Denver-Ft. Collins in March, possibly representing the spring movement northward.
 One was also seen at Waterton May 9(HK).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker-At Bonny all spring, and 2 at Julesburg May 15(BK,SL).
 Red-headed Woodpecker-One at Ft. Collins Mar 20(TC,MCo)was about a month early.
 Lewis's Woodpecker-1 wandered out to Tamarack Ranch May 28(RA,BK,SL)for the first local record.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher-1 was at Julesburg Res. May 22(BK,SL).
 Great Crested Flycatcher-Knapp and Larson found 8 individuals in Washington, Sedgwick, Logan and Yuma Counties May 15-21, but most couldn't be located later in the month.
 There are still no nesting records from the state; apparently this was mostly a migratory movement.
- Willow Flycatcher-A vociferously territorial male at Tamarack Ranch May 28-June 4 was significant since there are apparently no eastern plains nesting records for the species.
- *Vermilion Flycatcher-A female was seen at La Junta Mar 23(S&BT)for the 17th state record.
 Tree Swallow-The average arrival for Denver is April 12, and the extreme Mar 31(Holt), but there were the following arrivals this spring: Buena Vista Mar 16, 10 Ft. Collins Mar 20, 2 Castlewood Mar 25 and 20 Sawhill Mar 29.
- Purple Martin-12 at Bonny Res. Apr 27(DP) was certainly very notable; there are only 28 state records, 8 of them from eastern Colorado, and none involve such a high number.
- Scrub Jay-1 Northglenn Mar 24(HH)was interesting as most stragglers to the plains are in the fall.
- Pinyon Jay-There were a number of northeastern records: 3 Prewitt Res. Apr 8; 8 Ft. Collins May 7; 7 Longmont May 21; 30 Boulder Co. May 14-23.
- Winter Wren-1 Boulder Mar 25(PGe)was the only report.
 Bewick's Wren-A very scarce bird in northeastern Colorado, there was 1 at Ft. Collins Mar 3-27(LHa)and 1 on Pawnee NG May 3(RR,m.ob.).
- *Short-billed Marsh Wren-1 at CF&I Lakes at Pueblo Mar 26(AB,EB)was early, and rare (13th state record).
- Curve-billed Thrasher-One was at Ft. Morgan May 4-6(JRi), there are only 3 previous records from the plains of northeastern Colorado, two of them in May and one in December.
- Wood Thrush-One-two were at Boulder May 20-21(PH,SL)and a singing bird at RMNP May 24 (PH): there are now about 40 records for the state.

Hermit Thrush-Very scarce, with only 6 reported May 7-24.

Swainson's Thrush-Also very scarce, with the only significant flock being 50+ at Sterling May 30.

*Gray-cheeked Thrush-After last year's incredible flight, only one was reported this spring: 1 Bonny May 14(BL,MM).

Eastern Bluebird-One in RMNP May 6(PH)was the first record there. Three possible nests were reported from Bonny in late April, and there were 4 pairs to May 10 (P&MM). A pair was feeding 2 fledglings at Julesburg May 29(m.ob).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-Only 1 was reported from Boulder(on May 9).

*Black-tailed Gnatcatcher-A pair was reported from Ridgway May 12-14 by Guadagno. There are no previous Colorado records: the Official Records Committee has not yet offered an opinion of the record, but it was well described.

Bohemian Waxwing-Boulder had 5565 in March(BAS), and the last bird of the winter was on Apr 8(JR).

*Philadelphia Vireo-1 at Ft. Morgan May 12(JRi)was the only report.

Warbling Vireo-1 at Boulder Apr 22(PGe)was quite early, it seldom arrives before mid-May.

Black-and-white Warbler-2 at Boulder Mar 18(PW)were very early, the Denver extreme is Apr 1.

*Prothonotary Warbler-Two males at Ft. Collins May 7(SB,WH,DH,DV,KW)was the 17th Colorado record.

Worm-eating Warbler-One was at Waterton Apr 24(JW,AW): it was the 27th Colorado record.

*Blue-winged Warbler-1 male Boulder May 25(BF)was only the 8th record from Colorado.

Tennessee Warbler-8 were in eastern Colorado May 6-30, and a late one at Barr June 12.

Nashville Warbler-1 at Pueblo May 14 was the only reported.

Northern Parula-Three were reported from Denver area in mid-May, and at Barr June 1-2 and Chatfield June 14.

Black-throated Blue Warbler-1 Bonny Apr 27, May 6, 1 Ft. Morgan May 7, 1 Barr June 2; there are now 77 records from Colorado.

Magnolia Warbler-1 Bonny May 8; 1 Barr May 9; 1 Boulder May 13.

*Cape May Warbler-1 male RMNP May 6(PH). 1 Ft. Collins May 7(DL), 1 male Boulder May 19 (RA),pair in RMNP June 12-13(see Fall 1977 CFO Journal): these are the 11-14th state records.

Black-throated Gray Warbler-Three at Barr May 7 were a high number for so far northeast.

Black-throated Green Warbler-1 Baca Co. May 9, 2 Boulder May 14 and a "few" at Ft. Collins.

*Blackburnian Warbler-2 Bonny May 7(PJ,PL)and 1 RMNP May 30(PH)were the 34th and 35th records for Colorado.

*Yellow-throated Warbler-1 at Bonny May 15(BL,M&PM)was the 9th for Colorado.

Grace's Warbler-1 at Ft. Collins May 8(CC)was an unusual northeastern Colorado observation.

Chestnut-sided Warbler-16 were reported May 11-30.

Bay-breasted Warbler-1 male Barr May 7(RA,BL)and 6 from Boulder May 14-22(m.ob.): there are now 59 observations in Colorado of this bird(once one of the rarest of all eastern warblers in the state).

Blackpoll Warbler-15+ from May 7-30.

Palm Warbler-1 in SE Denver Apr 21-22(JW,m.ob.)was the 46th from Colorado.

Ovenbird-15 reported May 7-30.

Northern Waterthrush-12+ reported Apr 30-late May, inc. 1 at Fruita May 12.

*Louisiana Waterthrush-The best warbler of the season, 1 at Bonny May 14(PGe,BL,M&PM,JRo) is only the 2nd for the state.

Hooded Warbler-1 male Barr May 7(RA),1 male Boulder May 20(LH), 1 female Boulder May 25 (SL)and 1 female Evergreen May 27(ECT,WWB)bring the state's listing up to 33 records.

American Redstart-Numbers were low, e.g., only 4 at Boulder in May (BAS).

Bobolink-Numbers at Tamarack Ranch as usual, with 25 from May 15 on. Also reported at Boulder(4 on May 14-15-m.ob.)and Colorado Springs (1 on May 15-AAS).

- *Eastern Meadowlark-Up to 6 at Red Lion April 23 on(m.ob.).
 Red-winged Blackbird-An albino was at Wellington Apr 29(FCAS).
 *Scott's Oriole-A male was at Unaweep Canyon, Mesa Co. May 21-26(NG,MRG,PJ,HT)for the 5th Colorado record.
 Baltimore Oriole-1 Barr May 13(RA)was the only report from near the mountains.
 Rusty Blackbird-Up to 27 at CCRA in late March and 13 at Ft. Collins May 7.
 Great-tailed Grackle-The Monte Vista colony held 20 individuals May 23.
 Western Tanager-This bird had a weak flight at Boulder, with only 23 reported(BAS).
 *Scarlet Tanager-Colorado had an unprecedentedly good flight this spring: 3(2 males, 1 female)at Boulder May 12-14(m.ob.), 2 males at Bonny May 14-15(BL,P&MM), 1 Evergreen May 20 (WWB)and 1 male at Tamarack Ranch May 30(m.ob), 1 male in Poudre R. Canyon June 19(EDB). There are now 38 records from Colorado.
 *Hepatic Tanager-A male at Boulder May 9(BK,SL)was only the 4th from Colorado.
 Summer Tanager-1 Ft. Collins May 6-7(DL), 1 Baca Co. May 7(JR), 1 Bonny May 7-8(JW,AW), 1 Denver May 15(MJS).
 Cardinal-1 female Bonny Apr 26(MP)and 1 at Pueblo May 7(DG)were interesting records, but a male at the Sand Dunes May 5(DG) was noteworthy for the being the first away from the eastern plains. These are the 45th-47th state records.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak-About 125 were reported this spring, including 1 Estes Park May 14, 1 Aspen May 10-20, 7 at Ouray-Ridgway May 10-26 and 1 at Fruita May 13.
 Indigo Bunting-23 were reported, including 3 Aspen May 18 and 3 Durango May 14.
 *Purple Finch-1 Colorado Springs Mar 24(WWB)was the only report.
 Common Redpoll-Last one was 1 at Boulder Apr 13-14(T&R,VZ).
 White-winged Crossbill-2 in Denver Apr 11(DT)was quite notable; also 1 Colorado Springs May 16(CCa).
 Rufous-sided Towhee-At least one pair of "unspotted" eastern birds at Tamarack Ranch on May 29(m.ob.).
 Lark Bunting-30 males on Mar 28 near Ft. Collins was a very notably early record(AH).
 Grasshopper Sparrow-An unusual west slope record was 1 at Ridgway May 25(JRG).
 Baird's Sparrow-1 Longmont Apr 30(DA), 2 Ft. Collins May 7(G,JF).
 *LeConte's Sparrow-One of the notable birds of the season was 1 at Wellington May 7 (EH,JS): complete with superlative photographs, it is only the 2nd definite record from Colorado.
 Cassin's Sparrow-50 on Pawnee NG May 28(PM)may be the most ever from Northeastern Colorado.
 Black-throated Sparrow-Unusual northeastern records were 1 at Boulder Apr 14(LH)and 1 Denver May 25(fide RA).
 Chipping Sparrow-A quite early individual was 1 at Greeley Mar 27(PS).
 Field Sparrow-Only report was 3 at Bonny May 7(PJ).
 Harris' Sparrow-1 at Ridgway Apr 6 (JRG)and all winter up to Apr 22 at Aspen(RFAS)were unusual west slope records.
 White-throated Sparrow-8 reported, up to May 15.
 Fox Sparrow-1 Green Mtn. Apr 12(ME1)and a western race at Evergreen Apr 22(ECT).
 Swamp Sparrow-1 Pueblo Mar 26, 1 Sawhill Mar 27, 2 Sawhill Apr 13-23.
 Lincoln's Sparrow-Only 1 at Boulder in May(BAS) was a very poor showing.

Many thanks to the 320+ observers who were in the field in Colorado this spring!

Initialed observers:

Stewart Adams(SA), David Alles(DA), Robert Andrews(RA), Adam Blatnick(AB), Edward Blatnick(EB), Elyse Deffke Bliss(EDB), Steve Bouffard(SB), Winston William Brockner(WNB), Mayo Call(MC), Charles Campbell(CCa), Tannie Casey(TC), Charles Chase(CC), Mike Conghenour(MCo), Margie Elliott(ME1), Margaret Ewing(ME), Kearney Fieldtrip(KF), Gil and Jean Finlay(G&JF), Elva Fox(EF), Bill Freeman(BF), David Galinat(DGa), Peter

Gent(PGe), Paul Gorenzel(PG), Nancy Greenleaf(NG), Herman Griese(HG), David Griffiths(DG), J.R. Guadaño(JRG), Mrs. Robert Gustafson(MRG), Wendy Haas(WH), Halseys(H), Paula Hansley(PH), Al Harmata(AH), Lad Hanka(LHa), Dale Hein(DH), Louise Hering(LH), Ed Hollowed(EH), Harold Holt(HH), Mark Janos(MJ), Paul Julian(PJ), Hugh Kingery(HK), Barry Knapp(BK), Chris Knight(CK), David Laliberte(DL), Steve Larson(SL), Paul Lundberg(PL), Bill Lybarger(BL), Thompson March(TM), Gary Miller(GM), Brian Millsap(BM), Mike Moulton(MM), Pete Moulton(PM), Richard Pilmore(RP), Dan Pinkham(DP), Marsha Pinkham(MP), Jack Reddall(JR), Vince Reid(VRe), Van Remsen(VR), Joseph Rigli(JRi), Joe Roller(JRo), Ronald Ryder(RR), Mary Jane Schock(MJS), Virgil Scott(VS), Jeff Sherman(JSh), John Solberg(JS), Mildred O. Snyder(MOS), Paul Sutherland(PS), Don Thatcher(DT), Edna Clare Thomas(ECT), Helen Thurlow(HT), Steve and Babette Tully(S&BT), Tom and Ridi VanZandt(T&R VZ), Donna Vinal(DV), Judy Ward(JW), Pat Wheat(PW), Andy Wilbur(AW), Ken Wolgemuth(KW), Patty Young(PY).

DFO-Denver Field Ornithologists; AAS-Aiken Audubon Society; BAS-Boulder Audubon Society; FCAS-Ft. Collins Audubon Society; RFAS-Roaring Fork Audubon Society.

NOTICES

FLAMMULATED, PYGMY, SPOTTED, BOREAL AND SAW-WHET OWLS

The distribution and status of certain of Colorado's montane owls are poorly understood. The University of Colorado in cooperation with the Non-game Program of the Colorado Division of Wildlife is initiating a study to determine the population status and habitat requirements of Flammulated, Northern Pygmy, Spotted, Boreal and Saw-whet owls in montane regions of Colorado.

By soliciting cooperator sightings from C.F.O. members and other birders we can bring together scattered sightings to formulate a clearer picture of the status of these owls in the state. Individuals wishing to cooperate in this project are asked to complete the Cooperator Sightings Report Form inserted in this issue and forward it to me at the address below.

Frequently owls are found killed on the road. Such specimens can be a particularly valuable source of owl diet information if cooperators choose to retrieve the specimen, wrap it, and freeze it for later pick-up and analysis. These specimens can later be examined for stomach contents, reproductive state, and finally can be deposited in museums as prepared study skins. An owl collected in this manner should include date and locality of discovery. Pick-up of the frozen specimen will be prompt once I'm notified.

The success of this project will depend largely on the cooperation of individuals throughout the state.

-Bruce E. Webb-
Dept. of E.P.O. Biology
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80309

Identification Notes

CONFRONTING THE EMPIDONAX

Identification of Empidonax flycatchers represents one of the most complex problems of field ornithology. Apart from identification by song and habitat on the breeding grounds, field identification of the genus is an uncertain thing; verification by collecting is the only positive identification, one not available to us as field observers. Observations of Empidonax on the breeding grounds by Carol Hack shows that the plumage of the Dusky varies even among a handful of pairs which nest in one aspen grove (pers. comm.).

Nevertheless, Jon Dunn has reported a breakthrough in an article in "The Western Tanager," published by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Trapping empidonaces, keying them out in the hand, and then releasing them and observing their field characteristics has developed some field marks usable for separating the species. Guy McCaskie, Pierre Devillers, and Dave DeSante have contributed the following data about identifying members of this difficult genus. This information still does not permit identification of every Empidonax; however it improves immeasurably our ability to identify some of them. It is essential that every observer exercise extreme caution before making any Empid identification. Dunn describes the following information as "not so much to supply a definitive solution to the dilemma as to serve as an exploration of the problems to be encountered in confronting this frustrating and challenging genus."

Phillips, in Birds of Arizona, says, regarding this perplexing genus, that all look very much alike. Most migrate south before the pre-basic molt, which means that they look even more alike in the fall, due to wear and fading, than in the spring.

The information we present here makes identification both harder and easier; for instance, a yellow Empid is not automatically a Western, particularly in the fall.

Many of the differentiating marks are of a subtle nature--and since these marks are often variable, it is generally imperative to take into account a combination of characters before arriving at a conclusion as to species.

* * *

The Editor profusely thanks Barry Clark, Editor of 'The Western Tanager' published by the Los Angeles Audubon Society, for assistance in adapting this article from a series which appeared in 1977 in the Tanager. Mr. Clark furnished us with the original art work used to illustrate the Tanager articles (except one, the Hammond's Flycatcher; for it we reproduced the drawing as it appeared in the Tanager).

Illustrations by Mary Ellen Pereyra.

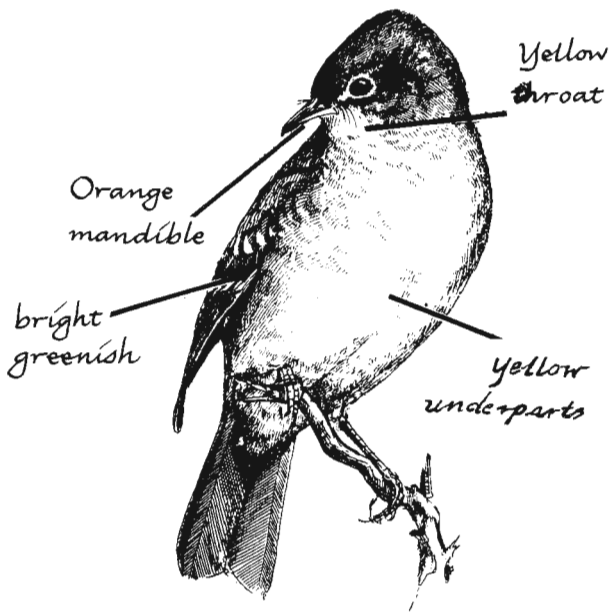
WESTERN FLYCATCHER

Empidonax difficilis

Breeds in the Colorado conifer belt, and in mixed aspen and conifers. Nests on ledges of rock and dirt banks, often in moist gullies, in old mine tunnels, and on and about mountain cabins.

Migrates throughout Colorado.

Usually the species easiest to identify, as it usually is the brightest.



Behavior: Quite distinctive.

Actively flicks its wings while flicking its tail upward. Only Western and Hammond's flick both wings and tail at once.

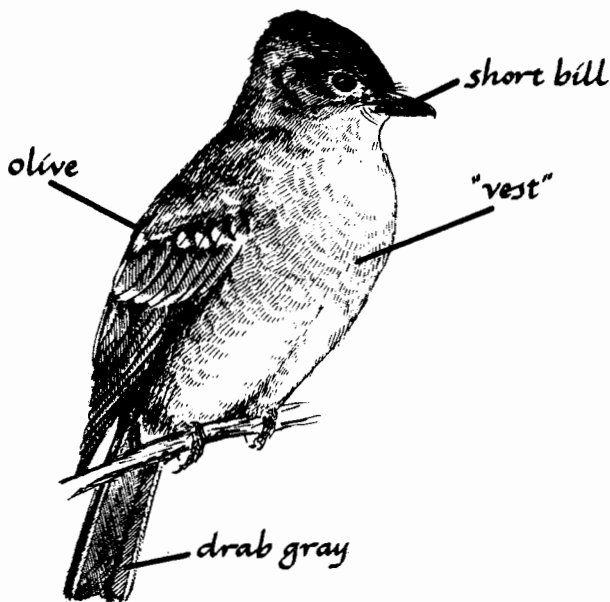
Call Notes: Diagnostic, once learned.

- A whistled, up-slurred "su-wheet", commonly given on the breeding grounds and routinely in migration (unlike other Empids).
- A soft, White-crowned Sparrow-like "peet", very unlike the "wit" notes given by any other Empids.

Plumage:

- Overall shape: large-headed and short-tailed.
- Largely yellow underparts (shading to olive on the sides).
- Fairly greenish back color.
- Yellow throat.

Some fall birds are very drab, lacking almost all traces of yellow on the underparts. In dealing with these birds, the most useful character is the bill, which is proportionately much longer and wider than that of other similarly-sized Empids. Also, when viewed from underneath (the usual position), the bright orange mandible should serve to identify it.



HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER

Empidonax hammondi

Breeding birds prefer dark coniferous forests, bordering alder and willow-lined mountain streams. They nest in coniferous trees.

Thought to migrate along the piedmont plains and west, in the mountain valleys.

Behavior:

Like the Western, Hammond's flicks its wings while flicking its tail upward, with some frequency.

Call Notes:

- The characteristic soft 'wit' note of most Empids.
- A piercing 'peek' note, described as resembling the call of the Pygmy Nuthatch.

Plumage:

- Overall shape: large-headed and short-tailed (like Western).
- Underparts present a "vested" appearance, a result of contrast with darker sides and flanks with paler belly. (This pattern is reminiscent of that of the Olive-sided Flycatcher or Western Wood Pewee, although here it is less distinct.)
- Only a slight olive tinge on back.
- Head always appears very gray, with a contrasting, white eye ring. (Disregard illustration in Robbin's 'Birds of North America', which shows a distinct rusty tinge to cap and back.)
- Very thin and short bill, when compared with Western. When viewed from the side, the lower mandible appears primarily dark, rather than bright orange like the Western.
- Little contrast between outer tail rectrices and rest of tail.

Some fall immatures can be quite yellowish below; in fact they can often be considerably brighter than some drab Western individuals. Despite their brightness, however, these imm. Hammond's display their "vested" appearance--though now the contrast is one of dark olive with yellow. In addition, these birds invariably display a grayish throat.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER

Empidonax oberholseri

Breeds along alder and willow-lined streams and in ponderosa pine forests, usually in mountain valleys with conifer slopes; also in aspen forests; usually in more open forests than Hammond's. Nests usually less than six feet high, often in willows, alders, and aspens.

Migrates throughout the plains and mountain valleys.

Distinguishing between the Hammond's and Dusky is the most challenging Empid identification. Since the characteristics which distinguish the two are of a very subtle nature, exercise utmost caution.

Behavior:

Flicks only its tail upwards, and then only occasionally.

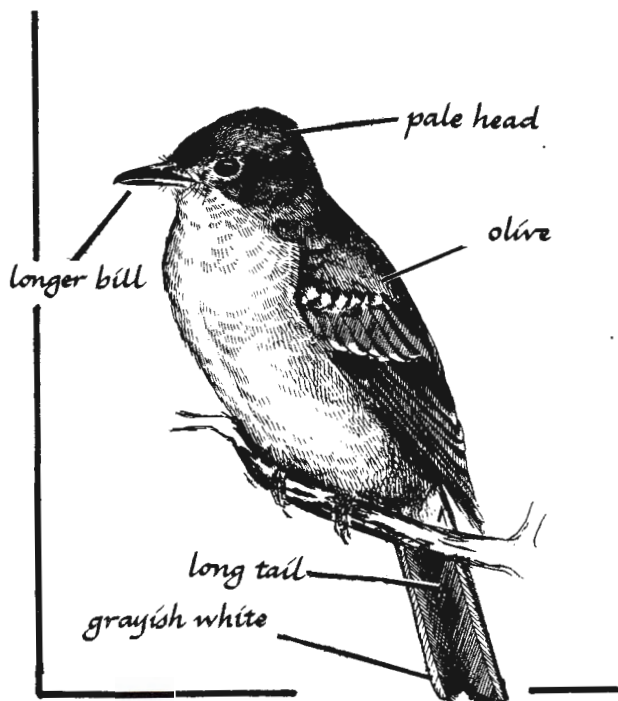
Call Notes:

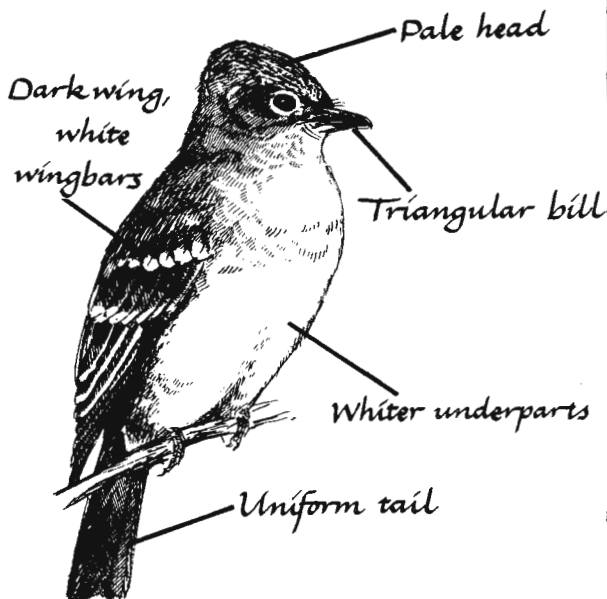
The characteristic soft "wit" note.

Plumage:

- Tail longer than Hammond's, lending it a longer appearance overall.
- Underparts uniformly pale, largely lacking the vested appearance of Hammond's. Sometimes (like Hammond's) it shows very pale yellow on belly and under tail coverts.
- Paler-headed than Hammond's, particularly in the cheek area.
- Bill larger than Hammond's, approaching length of the bill of the Western.
- Outer webs of rectrices distinctly edged with grayish-white. (In Hammond's, a less contrasty, drabber, gray shade.)

Immatures are slightly brighter than adults, but none (of Dunn's observations) even nearly approach the brightness of an imm. Hammond's. You can assume that a very bright bird encountered in the fall is not a Dusky.





LEAST FLYCATCHER

Empidonax minimus

Migrates on the eastern Colorado plains; no breeding records, but it does breed in eastern Wyoming, apparently including Cheyenne.

Least resembles Hammond's the most.

Behavior:

Vigorously flips its tail upward, but seldom flicks its wings.

Call Note:

- A loud 'whit', resembling the call of the Audubon's Warbler.
- Song: a shortly snapped cry, 'Che-bek', very emphatic. Frequently given during migration.

Plumage:

- Overall shape: big-headed and short-tailed, like Hammond's.
- Underparts have a whiter appearance than Hammond's.
- Breast: sides have only a slight grayish cast, giving it only a faint horizontal band, in contrast to the 'vested' appearance of Hammond's.
- Lower belly and undertail coverts a very pale yellow (often appearing white on some birds).
- Head slightly paler gray than Hammond's.
- Bold eye ring and slight greenish cast to back, like Hammond's.
- Bill, although short like Hammond's, reveals a wider base when viewed from underneath--giving it almost a triangular shape.
- Bolder white wing bars, tercials, and edgings to the wings. Background color of wing is of a darker shade than Hammond's, which further emphasizes the contrast.
- Tail, a uniform shade, lacking pale grayish edge of Hammond's.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER

Empidonax trailli

Formerly one and the same with Alder Flycatcher, and known as Traill's, this species has achieved recognition only recently on the American Ornithologists' Union checklist. The Alder is not known to occur in Colorado.

Willow Flycatchers nest in willow and alder thickets, and other shrubs bordering streams, ponds, beaver ponds, and swamps throughout the state, although most commonly in the eastern Colorado foothills.

Probably migrates throughout the state.

Behavior:

Consistently flicks its tail upward.

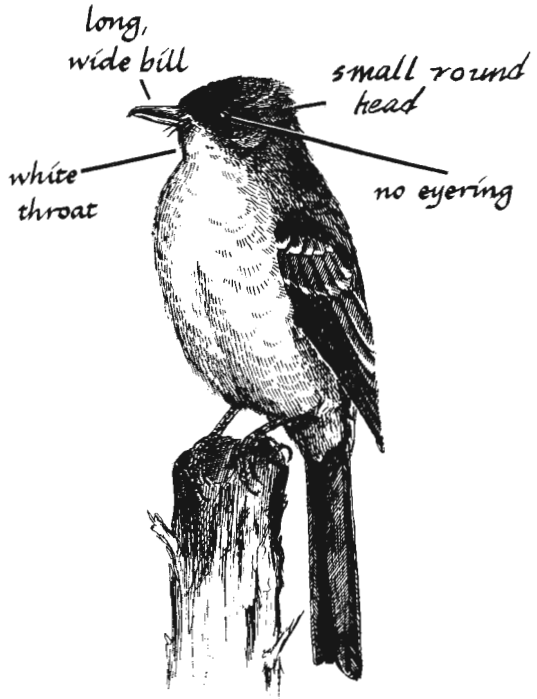
Call Notes:

- Call, "whit", like other Empids, possibly a bit louder.
- Song, an emphatic "fitz-bew", often heard during spring migration.

Plumage:

- Lacks a distinctive eye ring (although it may have a very faint one).
The only Empid so marked; the rest have rather distinctive eye rings.*
- Head and face a fairly uniform brownish-olive, which further accentuates the lack of an eye ring.
- Shape: head proportionately smaller and rounder than all other Empids, except Gray.
- Throat whiter than other Empids, except Least.
- Bill longer and wider than Hammond's and Dusky and Least.

* This characteristic may cause confusion with Western Wood Pewee; however the "peak-headed" appearance and darker coloration easily separate the pewee from the Willow. Also, the pewee does not flick its tail.

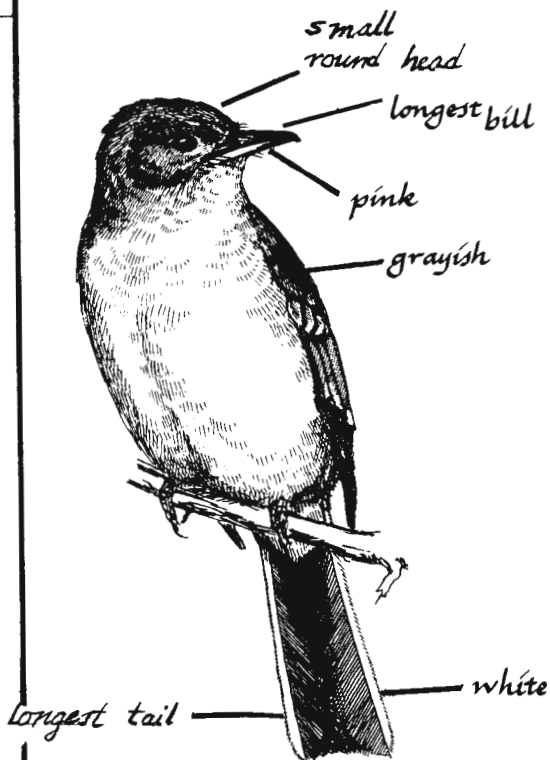


GRAY FLYCATCHER

Empidonax wrightii

Breeds in pinyon/junipers on the Western Slope and Canon City area; status in Las Animas County unknown.

Probably migrates only on Western Slope and south-eastern Colorado, en route to the pinyon/juniper pygmy forest.

Behavior:

Drops tail downward (without a wing flick). Although it will occasionally begin to raise its tail upward, no other U. S. Empid flicks its tail down.

Call Note:

Typical soft "wit", like other Empids.

Plumage:

- Largest Empid. Smaller-headed and rounder-headed than Dusky or Hammond's.
- Back grayish, lacking olive or greenish tones of Dusky or Hammond's.
- Face much paler than Dusky, with whitish eye ring contrasting less distinctly with the rest of the head.
- Bill slightly longer than Dusky (and much longer than Hammond's). Base of lower mandible is a distinct pinkish.
- Tail: slightly longer than Dusky. Outer webs of outer rectrices conspicuously edged with white, contrasting even more sharply with the rest of the tail than on Dusky.

Most immatures have a pale suffusion of yellow on the belly.

Reprise

These notes are intended solely as a guide, and will be useful only when the observer examines Empids critically in the field, especially on the breeding grounds. Standard field guides offer little help, but Godfrey's 'Birds of Canada' has excellent color plates. We still expect many reports of 'Empidonax sp.', but we expect other reports to species, based on these guidelines.

Coloradans have the opportunity to study the birds on their breeding sites and can learn more about the various species and their behavior. Such study requires a great deal of patience; it could reward us all with additional data on this perplexing group.

W-H.E.K.

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- Dunn, Jon: Field Notes/The Genus Empidonax. The Western Tanager 43, Numbers 7-10 (April to August, 1977).
 Niedrach, Robert J. and Alfred M. Bailey: Birds of Colorado, Denver Museum of Natural History (1965).
 Phillips, Allan, Joe Marshall, and Gale Monson: The Birds of Arizona, The University of Arizona Press (1964).

LATILONG STUDY PUBLISHED

The product of eighty-two contributors and six editors has culminated in C.F.O.'s second publication, "Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study" this March. It presents a tightly packed report on bird distribution in Colorado (records of the past 15 years only) by Latilong--the blocks into which latitude and longitude divide Colorado. It reports on the status of 405 species, omitting 24 for which no reports have come in the past 15 years.

The study offers a guide by habitat, seasonal status, and abundance. It probably offers more detailed report on the state distribution of birds than ever before published or even collected.

The publication may be ordered from the C.F.O. Treasurer, Judd Sundine, 5325 Garland, Arvada, Colorado 80002, for \$2.00 (\$1.50 for C.F.O. members).

THE OCCURRENCES OF THE RED-SHOULDERED
HAWK IN COLORADO

By Bruce Webb

This article summarizes the occurrences of the Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) in Colorado, and also deals with the account of one particular hawk which was seen in Boulder by many observers from early November 1974 until as late as March 1975.

The specific identity of the Red-shouldered Hawk which took residence along Boulder Creek at first prompted uncertainty and misidentification from many who observed it. When first seen, observers had only fleeting glimpses as it flew among the leafless cottonwood trees. From the outset, its behavior was unlike that of larger hawks. This alone prompted a few who were familiar with the species to suspect it might be a Red-shouldered Hawk. On several occasions in December, the bird perched as close as 30 feet from observers, allowing excellent looks at a bird in typical immature plumage. Because this particular hawk did not show conspicuous "windows" at the base of the primaries, some observers maintained that it could not be lineatus. Despite the fact that the bird exhibited behavior not typical of a Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), some observers be-

lieved it was an immature Red-tailed. The bird provided excellent opportunities to use behavioral characteristics in combination with plumage characteristics to eliminate confusion with the more open country hawks. This bird would consistently fly at or below the crown of the cottonwoods, never soaring or venturing far over the nearby open fields, but remained always within or along the edge of the extensive riparian woodland.



Red-shouldered Hawk, Boulder 1975
Photos by Richard Esposito



The extensively streaked underparts of this and certain other small immature buteos, such as Broad-winged (B. platypterus) and Gray hawks (B. nitidus), among others, tend to appear confusingly similar. Observers familiar with the heavy "bally-band" spotting of a typical immature Red-tailed Hawk should note from the accompanying photos that this bird shows streaking from the lower throat to the lower belly. This hawk was clearly smaller than an immature Red-tailed Hawk and its tail was relatively shorter than that of immature Accipiter species which are similarly streaked below.

The question that should have been asked was whether it might have been a Broad-winged Hawk. This particular bird was separable from platypterus by its larger size and by the fact that in flight its underwing linings contrasted with noticeably barred remiges. In addition to a tiny appearance, in flight a Broad-winged gives the appearance of nearly uniformly whitish underwings rather than barred.

Undoubtedly the most characteristic identifying feature of this individual was its voice. On several occasions in December and January, I observed it giving its repetitious two-part descending call, sometimes continuously for as long as fifteen minutes while it perched.

On March 1, 1975, the hawk was captured, banded and measured by Richard Esposito of Longmont, Colorado. The accompanying photos were taken at that time.

Most of the following was supplied from the files of the Official Records Committee.

Summary of occurrences of Buteo lineatus in Colorado

<u>Date</u>	<u>Plumage</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Source</u>
?	?	An undated specimen in Museum of Northern Arizona taken in El Paso County by Brenninger (Specimen now missing-fide J. Fischer).	Bailey & Niedrach, Birds of Colorado 1965 Vol. 1, p.208
3-18-1941	Unk	One observed north of Weldona by Howard Rollin at his farm in Morgan Co.	same as above
3-29-1942	Unk	One observed north of Weldona by Howard Rollin at his farm in Morgan Co. (same bird as on 3-18-1941?)	same as above
7-14-1948	probable adult?	One observed west of Johnstown, Weld Co. by J. & M. Douglass, "Red patches very evident.	same as above
5-22-1963	Immat.	One "seen well" at Pioneer Cemetery (9th St.) Boulder, Boulder Co. by L. Hering et al. ("Windows in wings and brown striped tail, above and below.)	C.B.N.Vol 11 Nos 3-4 p.28(details by pers. comm. BW.)
4-13-1968	Immat.	One observed at Prewitt Res. Washington Co. by J. Reddall, T. Marsh, et al. on D.F.O. fieldtrip.	<u>Lark Bunting</u> Vol.3, No. 8
5-11-68	Immat.	Two observed at Bonny Res. Yuma Co. by H. Holt and J. Reddall	<u>Lark Bunting</u> Vol. 3, No. 9
10-15-1970	Adult	One observed southeast of Johnson Res. on the Bradley Rd.(Fontaine Blvd.) about 3 miles east of Security, El Paso Co. by S. Gadd and L. Schultz.	Sam Gadd letter 3-12-1973 fide J. Reddall.

11-2-1974 thru 3-1-1975	Immat.	<u>One</u> observed in Ball Bros. North end of Commerce Ave., Boulder, Boulder Co. by B. Webb, J. Reddall et al.	Accepted by Off. Rec. Comm. #10-74-180
		Above bird captured, measured and banded by Richard Esposito on 3-1-1975	<u>Dipper</u> , Vol. 3 No.3
2-15-1976	Adult	<u>One</u> observed at Bonny Reservoir by M. Moulton, P. Moulton and J. Sundine	Accepted by O.R.C. #10-76-22
5-5-1976	Adult	<u>One</u> observed at Bonny Reservoir by J. Reddall (same location as 2-15-1976 bird?)	Accepted by O.R.C. #10-76-47
9-27-1976	Immat.	<u>One</u> observed at Barr Lake, Adams Co. by R. Andrews.	Accepted by O.R.C. #10-76-97

Although some of the following records may be valid, they lack sufficient details for acceptance due to one of the following reasons:

- (A) Single observer failed to provide details.
- (B) Other observers present disagreed with identification as B. Lineatus.
- (C) Submitted report was rejected by the Colorado Official Records Committee.

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Plumage</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Source</u>
A	4-20-1968	not given	One observed at Ft. Morgan, Morgan Co.	<u>Lark Bunting</u> Vol.3, No. 8
B	9-28-1968	Inmatures	Two observed in Barr Lake area (Adams County) on a D.F.O. Field Trip.	<u>Lark Bunting</u> Vol.3, No.9
C	2-23-1975	Immature	One observed between Pueblo and C.F.&I. Lakes. Pueblo County	Reviewed by Off. Rec. Committee. Rejected File No.10-75-20
C	4-23-1975	Adult	One observed near Estes Park, Larimer County.	Reviewed by Off. Rec. Committee. Rejected Files No.10-75-55

Additional records, pending Official Records Committee review include:

5-7-1976	Adult	<u>One</u> observed along South Boulder Creek Greenbelt, Boulder Co. by B. Knapp.	Boulder Audubon Newsletter Vol. 6, No. 6.
5-23 and 5-25-1976	not given	<u>One</u> observed at Ball Bros. Boulder, Boulder Co. by P. Moulton, B. Bosley, and B. Knapp.	same as above
5-15-1976	Adult	<u>One</u> observed at Tamarack Ranch South of Crook Co. by S. Larson.	pers. comm.
5-30-1976	Adult	<u>One</u> observed at Tamarack Ranch by H. Holt and B. Lybarger.	O.R.C. #10-76-74
9-2-1977	Adult	<u>One</u> observed on Weld-Larimer Co. line on Hwy 14, 2mi E. of Ft. Collins by B. Millsap.	O.R.C. #10-77-73

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A SUMMARY OF 1977 COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNTS

by David Hutchinson

The 1977 count period was December 17, 1977 - January 2, 1978. In response to a request to compilers of 25 counts, reports from 23 counts have been received. The following summary was taken from the compilation report as submitted by each count compiler. These results will be subject to the scrutiny of American Birds count editor and editor.

There were 167 species, 5 additional races, 3 forms with about 243,111 individuals reported for the 23 counts.

A CALENDAR OF COLORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

December 17, 1977	Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Hotchkiss, Longmont, Pueblo Reservoir, Ridgway
December 18, 1977	Boulder, Evergreen-Idaho Springs, Grand Junction, Greeley, Pueblo
December 21, 1977	Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Nunn
December 23, 1977	Weldona-Fort Morgan
December 24, 1977	Rocky Mountain National Park
December 26, 1977	Gunnison, Westcliffe
December 29, 1977	North Park
December 31, 1977	Durango, Lake Isabel, Pikes Peak
January 1, 1978	Bonny

NUMBER OF SPECIES FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 113, 5 races, 1 form	Greeley 47, 2 races
Boulder 92, 3 races	Evergreen-Idaho Springs 44, 3 races
Longmont 89, 3 races	Gunnison 43, 2 races
Pueblo Reservoir 86, 1 race	Pikes Peak 40, 2 races
Ft. Collins 85, 1 race, 1 form	Weldona-Ft. Morgan 38, 2 races
Colorado Springs 76, 2 races	Rocky Mountain National Park 36, 2 races
Grand Junction 76, 1 race, 1 form	Westcliffe 35, 2 races
Pueblo 72, 2 races	Monte Vista N. W. R. 31, 1 race
Hotchkiss 65, 1 race	Ridgway 28, 1 race
Bonny 58, 3 races	Nunn 24
Durango 58	North Park 22
Lake Isabel 53, 2 races	

TOTAL PARTY-HOURS FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 284.5	Grand Junction 67	RMNP 30
Boulder 242	Gunnison 60	Greeley 28
Longmont 125	Bonny 46	North Park 14.5
Colorado Springs 110	Durango 46	Weldona-Ft. Morgan 10.5
Ft. Collins 94	Pikes Peak 38	Westcliffe 9.75
Evergreen-Idaho Spgs. 85	Nunn 36	Monte Vista NWR 8.5

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 134	Durango 20	Pueblo Reservoir 14
Boulder 125	Gunnison 20	Nunn 11
Colorado Springs 66	RMNP 19	North Park 5
Ft. Collins 46	Greeley 15	Weldona-Ft. Morgan 4
Longmont 39	Pikes Peak 15	Westcliffe 3
Evergreen-Idaho Spgs. 37	Pueblo 15	Monte Vista NWR 2
Grand Junction 23	Bonny 14	

TEN MOST NUMEROUS SPECIES

Mallard	51,752	Dark-eyed Junco	8,552
Canada Goose	39,745	House Sparrow	6,593
Starling	33,329	Rock Dove	5,235
Red-winged Blackbird	19,440	Black-billed Magpie	5,219
Horned Lark	18,893	Tree Sparrow	3,890

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL BIRDS FOR EACH COUNT

Bonny	30,795	Monte Vista NWR	10,369	Gunnison	3,515
Ft. Collins	29,603	Weldona-Ft.Morgan	7,642	Evergreen-Idaho Spgs.	3,216
Denver	29,543	Colorado Springs	7,449	Lake Isabel	2,597
Boulder	25,118	Nunn	7,392	RMNP	604
Grand Junction	18,118	Pueblo Reservoir	4,762	Ridgway	541
Pueblo	18,014	Durango	4,282	Westcliffe	443
Longmont	17,070	Hotchkiss	3,926	North Park	380
Greeley	16,444	Pikes Peak	3,628		

SUMMARY OF SPECIES REPORTED

Key to Columns: A--Number of counts reporting each species
 B--High number for each species, count reporting high count
 C--Total individuals for each species

	A	B	C		A	B	C
Com. Loon	3	1 De, Pub, PR	3	Ruddy Duck	3	8 PR	14
Red-thr. Loon	1	1 Den	1	Hooded Merganser	3	12 Bou, De	25
Horned Grebe	4	1 Bou, De, Lmt, RM	4	Com. Merganser	12	225 Bou	589
Eared Grebe	2	2 Den	3	Red-br. Merganser	4	14 Bou	24
W. Grebe	5	32 Boul	37	Turkey Vulture	1	1 CS	1
Pied-billed Grebe	5	12 Den	20	Goshawk	6	1 CS, Du, GJ, Gr, H, Lm	6
Double-cr. Corm	2	1 Bou, Den	2	Sh.-sh. Hawk	12	5 Bon	30
Great Blue Heron	12	61 Den	176	Cooper's Hawk	8	4 CS, Gre	15
Bl-cr Night Heron	1	1 FC	1	Red-tld Hawk	20	26 CS	159
Whistling Swan	1	1 Wes	1	Red-tl(Harlan's)	7	2 Bon, De, Lmt	10
Trumpeter Swan	1	7 Wes	7	Swainson's Hawk	1	1 CS	1
Canada Goose	13	17,500 FC	39,745	Rgh-leg Hawk	20	28 CS	166
Canada Goose(lesser)	1	2 Den	2	Ferruginous Hawk	9	7 Boul	19
Wh.-fron. Goose	2	1 De, FC	2	Golden Eagle	15	17 Boul	72
Snow Goose	4	6 De, Lmt	15	(52a, 10i, 10u)			
Snow Goose (blue)	2	1 FC, GJ	2	Bald Eagle	12	16 Dur	63
Ross' Goose	1	3 Den	3	(40a, 21i, 2u)			
Mallard	19	17,000 Bon	51,752	Marsh Hawk	17	27 FC	153
Gadwall	9	33 CS	109	Prairie Falcon	12	6 FC	24
Pintail	11	215 MV	424	Peregrine Falcon	1	1 CS	1
Gr.-wing. Teal	11	131 Den	524	Merlin	7	2 MV	8
Bl.-wing. Teal	2	2 Bou, Den	4	Am. Kestrel	16	47 Lmt	238
Am. Wigeon	11	534 Boul	1515	Blue Grouse	3	9 Boul	17
N. Shoveler	7	77 Boul	154	Wh-tld Ptarmigan	1	1 RMNP	1
Wood Duck	4	12 Den	18	Sage Grouse	1	72 NP	72
Redhead	6	65 Lmt	137	Scaled Quail	2	50 CS	85
Ring-necked Duck	7	250 Boul	318	Gambel's Quail	1	186 GJ	186
Canvasback	4	9 Boul	12	Rngd-neck Pheas	12	44 Htch	190
Gr. Scaup	1	6 Den	6	Chukar	2	9 GJ	12
Lsr. Scaup	8	20 Lmt	62	Sandhill Crane	1	2 PR	2
Com. Goldeneye	13	284 Lmt	727	Virginia Rail	5	8 Den	14
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	2 Lmt	3	Am. Coot	10	200 Pub	520
Oldsquaw	2	2 Lmt	3	Killdeer	12	43 FC, PR	229
Bufflehead	4	5 Lmt	13	Com. Snipe	16	61 FC	153

	A	B	C		A	B	C
Gr. Yellowlegs	1	1 Boul	1	Gldn-crwnd Kinglet	2	29 Boul	36
Glaucous Gull	1	1 PR	1	Ruby-crwnd Kinglet	7	5 GJ	15
Herring Gull	7	57 Den	139	Water Pipit	5	8 GJ	20
Thayer's Gull	1	1 Den	1	Cedar Waxwing	5	76 GJ	148
California Gull	1	6 Den	6	N. Shrike	20	8 Den	70
Ring-bl'd Gull	7	3563 Den	3831	Loggerhead Shrike	6	5 PR	17
Rock Dove	19	1422 Den	5235	Starling	22	6988 GJ	33,329
Mourning Dove	10	338 GJ	485	Yellow-rmpd Warbler	1	14 GJ	14
Screech Owl	2	5 Den	7	Yel-rmpd(Aud)Warb	3	12 PR	15
Great Horned Owl	15	41 Bon	143	Com. Yellowthroat	1	1 PR	1
Pygmy Owl	6	2 Du, FC	8	House Sparrow	22	1007 Lmt	6593
Long-eared Owl	6	5 Bon, GJ	20	W. Meadowlark	16	541 GJ	1720
Short-eared Owl	2	1 FC, PR	2	Yel-hd Blackbird	2	1 Den, MV	2
Belted Kingfisher	18	31 Den	138	Red-wing Blackbird	16	9289 Pub	19,440
Com. Flicker	9	139 FC	538	Rusty Blackbird	1	30 Pub	30
Com(Red-sh) Fl.	13	220 Den	924	Brewer's Blackbird	9	2001 Gre	2336
Com(yel-sh) Fl.	2	1 De, Gre	2	Com. Grackle	4	7 Gre	10
Red-bell'd Wdp	1	2 Bon	4	Brown-hdd Cowbird	2	4 Pub	5
Lewis' Woodpecker	7	13 GJ	45	Evening Grosbeak	7	100 Den, Ev	311
Yellow-bl'd Sap	1	1 Lmt	1	Rose-breasted Gros.	1	1 Den	1
Hairy Woodpecker	14	51 Boul	185	Cassin's Finch	8	145 Ev	272
Downy Woodpecker	21	45 Den	208	House Finch	18	941 Den	3151
Ladder-bck'd Wdp	1	1 Pub	1	Pine Grosbeak	1	3 RMNP	3
N.Three-td Wdp	2	2 FC	3	Gray-cr Rosy Finch	10	490 NP	1693
Say's Phoebe	2	1 GJ, Htch	2	(Hepburn's form)	1	10 Ev	10
Horned Lark	21	8200 Bon	18,893	Black Rosy Finch	5	39 Gun	53
Gray Jay	5	12 PP	29	Brown-cp Rosy Finch	5	996 Gun	1063
Blue Jay	11	21 De, Lmt	125	Rosy Finch, Sp.	1	1500 PP	1500
Steller's Jay	14	442 Den	1891	Com. Redpoll	5	32 Weld	59
Scrub Jay	12	132 Den	443	Pine Siskin	13	315 Boul	1249
Bl-bl'd Magpie	23	1278 Den	5219	Am. Goldfinch	15	273 Bon	1099
Com Raven	19	150 Gun	622	Lesser Goldfinch	1	8 FC	8
Com Crow	15	644 FC	2874	Red Crossbill	5	106 Ev	203
Pinon Jay	4	80 Dur	125	Green-tld Towhee	3	2 Htch, Lmt	5
Clark's Nutcracker	9	108 Ev	191	Rufous-sd Towhee	11	117 CS	207
Bl-cap Chickadee	22	524 Den	1307	Brown Towhee	3	21 PR	24
Mountain Chickadee	16	709 Boul	2085	Lark Sparrow	1	2 CS	2
Plain Titmouse	3	7 Htch	12	Dark-eyed Junco	5	1767 Dur	1967
Bushtit	6	77 Dur	163	D-ey (wh-wng)Junco	11	148 CS	486
W-brstd Nuthatch	17	195 Boul	405	D-ey (Slate-cl)Jnc	19	296 Boul	1350
Red-brstd Nuthatch	12	16 CS	88	D-ey(Oregon)Junco	19	804 CS	4647
Pygmy Nuthatch	10	485 Boul	1110	D-ey(pnk-sdd)Jnc	1	102 Den	102
Brown Creeper	15	35 Boul	110	Gray-headed Junco	16	441 PP	2203
Dipper	14	60 Gun	162	Junco, Sp.	4	49 Boul	119
Winter Wren	2	1 Den, FC	2	Tree Sparrow	20	1330 Den	3890
Lg-bl'd Marsh Wren	6	6 Bon	13	Chipping Sparrow	3	8 CS	11
Canon Wren	8	15 Boul	45	Harris' Sparrow	11	23 Bon	77
Rock Wren	4	5 FC	10	White-crwnd Sprw	14	588 Pub	1758
Mockingbird	4	1 Bou, De Ev, Gun	4	White-thrb'd Sprw	5	14 Den	20
Brown Thrasher	1	1 Bon	1	Fox Sparrow	3	2 De, FC, Lmt	6
Curve-bl'd Thrasher	1	3 Pub	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	2 Den	2
Sage Thrasher	1	1 PR	1	Swamp Sparrow	3	5 Den	9
Am. Robin	18	1080 LI	2778	Song Sparrow	19	361 MV	1617
Varied Thrush	1	2 PP	2	Lapland Longspur	5	125 Bon	157
Hermit Thrush	1	1 CS	1	Snow Bunting	2	35 NP	37
E. Bluebird	2	2 Bon	3				
W. Bluebird	4	36 Dur	84				
Mountain Bluebird	6	170 PR	498				
Townsend's Solitre	18	451 Boul	1142				

GENERAL NOTESGolden-Winged Warbler - Discovery of a Specimen from Colorado

A large portion of the bird study skin collection at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University consists of the Frank M. Drew series of Colorado study skins. While inventorying the collection I discovered a specimen of Golden-Winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera) which had been placed in the teaching portion of the general collection. Up until now the Golden Winged warbler has been considered a part of the avifauna of Colorado on the basis of sight records only. (Editor's Note: CFO records show 21 sight records.)

The skin is that of a male in spring plumage and is in excellent condition. It bears a single small tag which is in Drew's handwriting and reads on one side "A.O.U. 642", and on the other side, "Colo. 1881 Drew". Going on the assumption that an individual in this plumage could be expected to be found in Colorado during the months of May to July, I noted the locations of other specimens in the series collected during these months in 1881. Drew apparently did the majority of his collecting during this time in the areas around Hermosa, Silverton, and Howardsville. However, there is a specimen in the series from Elbert, dated June of 1881.

This location may refer to Elbert County. It is likely that this specimen of V. chrysoptera is from this locale. This is the general portion of the state where many of the sight records of this species listed in The Birds of Colorado have occurred (Yuma, Bonny Reservoir, Golden, Barr Lake, and Evergreen.

-Michael P. Kowalski
1305½ S. Park
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

* * *

Migrating Swallows and Nutcrackers in Mosquito Range

On August 21, while hiking at about 11,500' on Mt. Cross near Alma, Colorado I saw something that I'd never seen before. Between 7 and 7:45 on a warm sunny morning I saw about 75-80 Rough-winged swallows in groups of 3-5 flying due south about 50 feet above the ground. They flew basically straight with little deviation and they were not feeding even though the air was full of insects. They were all within 100 feet of the same line south. I do not know how long this had been going on, or how long it continued before or after the 45 minutes that I watched.

While I was watching the Rough-winged Swallows, an even more remarkable thing happened. About 100 feet above the ground I saw about 35 Clark's Nutcrackers also flying in a southerly direction. They were loosely flocked in two groups and they took about 30 minutes to pass overhead.

Both the swallows and the nutcrackers appeared first as little specks in the sky and they flew steadily south until they were once again little specks in the sky.

- Charles Lanning Campbell
1624 N. Tejon St.
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80907

Williamson's Sapsucker working on Douglas-Firs attacked by beetles

On July 12, 1977, I observed a male Williamson's Sapsucker working on a Douglas-fir, digging with the sideways glances that make the characteristic pits of the sapsuckers. Of particular interest was his choice of tree. It was a Douglas-fir adjacent to a tree of the same species with brown needles. This was on the edge of an area of dead trees, presumed killed by attacks of Douglas-fir bark beetle. I also found similar sapsucker work on two trees a short distance from other dead trees in the same stand. All three of these trees looked to be in good health. However, the first mentioned above has now died (having brown needles four months later). The other two (four months later) still do not show evidence of bark beetle attack - are in good health, although neighboring trees show the advancing of the beetles.

With thousands of trees to choose from, it seems more than coincidence that the sapsucker chose trees bordering the beetle attack. It was also interesting that none of the previously killed trees showed any sapsucker work, even in earlier years. What is the connection between the Williamson's Sapsucker and the bark beetle attack?

* * *

Wanted: Information on observations by birders of sapsuckers in Colorado especially in relationship to bark beetles - either feeding or in relationship to the changing habitat due to the beetle kills. Contact me at the address below.

- Roberta Winn
Route 2, Box 296
Sedalia, Colorado 80135

* * *

CURRENT COLORADO ORNITHOLOGY LITERATURE

(Editor's Note: This note begins a new feature, reporting on articles concerning Colorado birds which appear in other ornithological journals. We invite contributions from our members).

"The breeding status of the Long-billed Curlew in Colorado" - The Auk 94:599
July 1977

By D. Archibard McCallum, Walter D. Graul, and Ronald Zaccagnini. Long-billed Curlews nest throughout eastern Colorado prairies, probably, but Baca County supports a substantial population. The article attempts no population estimates, but rather notes observations of adults during the breeding period of May 15 to July 31, in 1974 and 1975. Of 73 sightings (obtained by surveys of U.S. Soil Conservation Service and C.F.O. members) 42 occurred in Baca County. Forty-one percent of observations by one of the authors were within 100 yards of some source of water, so water availability may well have an important effect upon the curlews' selection of nesting sites.

"A definite Colorado breeding record for the Harlequin Duck" - The Auk, 93:Oct. 1976

By Kenneth C. Parkes and Colleen Halgeson Nelson in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

The authors discovered a specimen of a 10-12 day old duckling taken along Vallecito Creek, LaPlata County, on July 15, 1883 by A.W. Anthony. The authors compare the status of Harlequin Ducks in Colorado (thought by early observers to breed in San Juan and La Plata Counties) with the status of Barrow's Golden-eye, as discussed by R. S. Palmer in his book, Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 3:

"In the late 1870's, Carter found Barrow's plentiful and nesting in the Colorado mountains, but there have been no nesting records in the state since 1886. Possibly there was an isolated breeding unit which became extinct and the region has not been repopulated."

* * *

"First recorded breeding of the Great-tailed Grackle in Colorado", The Condor 77:208, Summer, 1975

By P.H. R. Stepney. The author discovered 8 nests in Monte Vista, Colorado during the spring and summer of 1973. They nested in Evergreens on the cemetery of the Veterans' Home, and fed in the vicinity. The breeding activity was marked by pronounced asynchrony, with unhatched eggs in one nest, and fledging young on the same day, as well as all stages between. The birds apparently had been observed there by others in 1971, and probably had not occurred there prior to that date.

* * *

"Breeding Status of the Mountain Plover", The Condor 78:265, Summer, 1976

By Walter D. Graul and Lois E. Webster. Through independent and coordinated studies of Mountain Plovers, the authors conclude that the decrease first noted in 1915 has continued, with only three states--Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana--supporting breeding populations. They estimate 20,820 nesting birds in the Pawnee National Grassland (6 birds/sq. km.); 105,000 to 210,000 birds for the rest of Colorado, and 88,400 in Wyoming and Montana. They caution that their estimates are highly tentative. Agricultural activity has caused the reduction in population, since they require short-grass prairie for their nesting sites. Even plowed areas allowed to revert to grassland may well revegetate with taller grasses unsuitable for plover breeding. Heavy grazing helps maintain the blue grama-buffalo grass community favored by the birds. The authors cite C.F.O. for assistance.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
c/o Mrs. Camille Cummings
P. O. Box ~~509~~ 109
Berthoud, Colorado 80513

Announcing --

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