

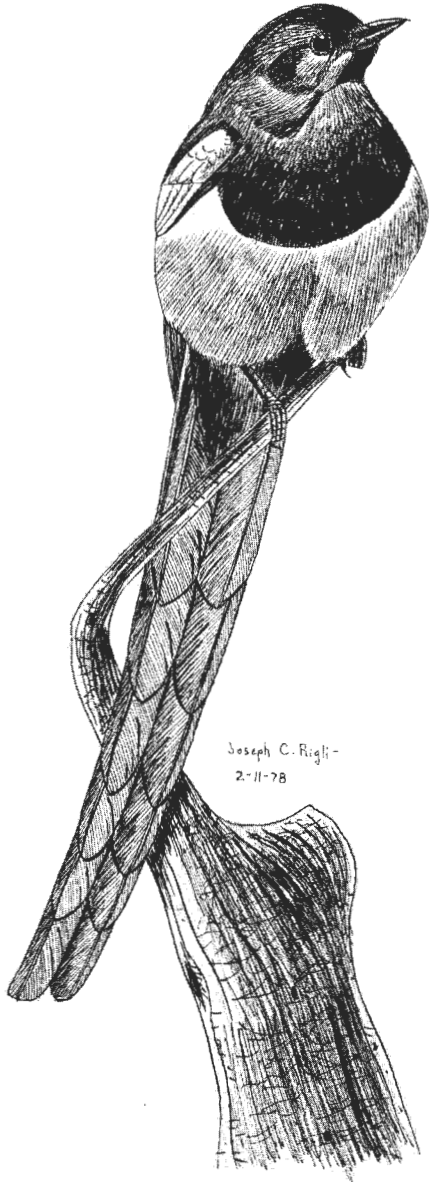
C.F.O.  
Journal

Vol. 12

Magpie

No. 4

Sketch by Joseph C. Rigli



Joseph C. Rigli -  
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C.F.O. Journal is a quarterly journal devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest, and reports of unusual observations, are solicited. Send manuscripts, with photos and drawings to Barry Knapp, 4695 Osage Drive, Boulder, CO 80302.

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## LATILONG STUDY REVISION

C.F.O. and the Division of Wildlife are working to revise the Latilong Study to make additions and corrections to the study as published.

Walter Graul and Steve Bissell, Non-game Specialist for the Division, stressed need for input to the study to make it more reliable as a report on the birds of the state. They also emphasized that the Habitat descriptors are crucial.

The reason for their concern with the habitats relates to the computerization of the information in the Latilong study. When someone wants to know about the wildlife of a specific location, a call to the Latilong computer will elicit a list of likely species in that sites, depending upon the habitats identified for the queried location and its Latilong.

We have had a number of reports to add to the study, a few suggesting changes or deletions, and welcome additional input. Please use the form provided in the Latilong booklet, or provide the same data in a letter. Send it to Latilong Study, C.F.O. Records Committee, c/o Curator, Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, 80205, or send it direct to Hugh Kingery, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver 80206.

\* \* \*

Using the same system as the Bird Latilong study, the Division has published two other Latilong Studies, for Mammals and for Reptiles and Amphibians. Copies are available for \$1.00 from the Non-game Section, Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver 80216.

\* \* \*

NOTE TO LIBRARIANS: The C.F.O. Journal, with this issue, commences use of a volume/number sequence which complies with regulations of the U.S. Postal Service. This issue is the fourth issue of 1978; the preceding issue was designated as Summer 1978, No. 34.

\* \* \*

OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE                      Bob Andrews, Chairman, (c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver 80205).

Members: David Griffiths, Pueblo; Ed Hollowed, Ft. Collins; Harold Holt, Denver; Peter Moulton, Longmont; Richard Stransky, Durango.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT  
1976 and 1977  
by Robert Andrews\*

This report contains the results of the work done by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee (O.R.C.) in 1976 and 1977. Activities of the O.R.C. from its inception in May 1972 through 1975 have been reported by Reddall (1973a, b, c, 1974a, b, 1975, 1976a, b). The list of Colorado birds as recognized by the O.R.C. stands at 427 species.

The O.R.C. currently consists of six members: Robert Andrews (Chairman-Denver), David Griffiths (Pueblo), Edward Hollowed (Ft. Collins), Harold Holt (Denver), Peter Moulton (Longmont), and Richard Stransky (Durango). All O.R.C. records are deposited in the Department of Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, where they are available for examination by anyone.

The following is the list of species for which the O.R.C. desires documentation (in addition to any species unrecorded from Colorado): Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Louisiana Heron, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, European Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Black Scoter, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Whooping Crane (except Western Slope), King Rail, Yellow Rail, Common Gallinule, American Woodcock, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Rivoli's Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Martin (east slope only), Short-billed Marsh Wren, Long-billed Thrasher, Bendire's Thrasher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Swainson's Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Canada Warbler, Painted Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark (except at Red Lion State Wildlife area), Scott's Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle (except San Luis Valley), Hepatic Tanager, Painted Bunting, LeConte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Smith's Longspur.

PART I-SPECIES ADDED TO THE COLORADO LIST

KING RAIL (Rallus elegans). One individual (N-17-68) of this species was

\*c/o Curator of Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205.

present at the C.F. & I. Lakes near Pueblo, Pueblo Co. from 12 June to 3 July 1976. The bird was initially located by Dave and Carolyn Griffiths, and was subsequently seen by many observers, and photographs and tape recordings were also obtained. The O.R.C. reviewed written documentation provided by Dave Griffiths, Robert Andrews, Narca Moore, Peter Moulton, and Judd Sundine, and photographic documentation provided by Judd Sundine and Van Truan. A full account of this observation has been made by Griffiths (1976), and those details will not be repeated here. An additional photograph, by Steve Larson, appeared on the front cover of the C.F.O. Journal in 1977 (No. 29, Winter 1977). The nearest part of the bird's breeding range is in eastern Nebraska (A.O.U. 1957) and at Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area, Barton Co., Kansas (Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area bird checklist, 1974). This latter site is roughly 300 miles east of Pueblo.

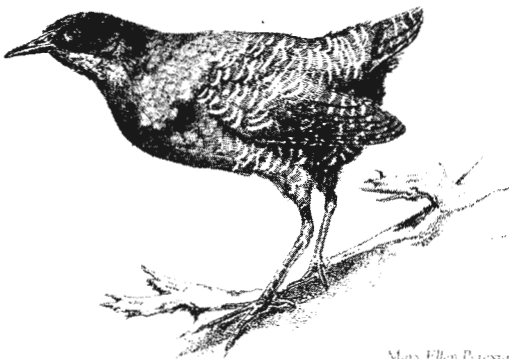
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). One immature (N-19-62) was present at Prince Lake No. II, about 1 mile north of Lafayette, Boulder Co. from 26 October to 7 November 1975. The bird was found and identified by Bruce Webb and Jeanne Conry, and was subsequently observed by a large number of observers, and was also photographed by several people. The O.R.C. files contain written documentation provided by Bruce Webb, Jeanne Conry, Robert Andrews, Harold Holt, D. Archibald McCallum, and Jack Reddall, and photographic documentation provided by Harold Holt and Bruce Webb. The bird was first found in a small flock of Pectoral Sandpipers (*C. melanotos*). Complete details of this observation are expected to be published elsewhere by Webb and Conry. This species is a palearctic bird, breeding in northern Siberia and wintering in Australasia, with a migration route that goes through eastern Asia on the Pacific coast (A.O.U. 1957). The bird is a regular migrant in small numbers in western Alaska, and has also been recorded on a number of occasions on the Pacific coast of Canada and the United States, and even more rarely on the Atlantic coast. This observation should alert Colorado observers to the possibility, however remote, of palearctic species in Colorado.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One individual (N-19-77) was present 1.5 miles northeast of Prospect Res., Weld Co. from 30 May to 5 June 1976. The bird was initially located and identified by Jack Reddall, and subsequently observed by many people. Although photographs were obtained, none were of high quality and none showed the diagnostic features of the bird. The O.R.C. reviewed written documentation provided by Jack Reddall, Robert Andrews and Mildred Snyder. The bird was a medium-sized shorebird. It had a black bill slightly longer than the head and very slightly down-curved at the end. The legs were fairly long and yellow-orange. The head, neck, and breast were a rich, deep rufous-brown with some dark speckling on the side of the breast and crown. There was a fairly large and strongly defined white patch around the base of the bill, similar to the face pattern of a female scaup. There was also a pale but noticeable white eye-ring. The lower breast was soft brownish-pink and becom-

ing white on the belly and undertail coverts. The back was rich brown, with each feather edged with white, producing a very conspicuous scalloped or scaled appearance. In flight, the underwing was brownish-white and the upperwing brown with one fairly thin white wing-stripe. In flight, the diagnostic rump pattern could be seen by two large white oval patches with only a thin stripe of black between them. Tail was short, square and blackish. Although it is probably not possible to determine for sure the sex of the bird, the rich coloration indicated it may have been a male. However, the lack of any ruff demonstrated that if it was a male, it must have been an immature. This species has been observed with increasing regularity in North America, and there are a handful of interior records. Therefore, it was probably inevitable that one would show up in Colorado, and additional individuals are to be looked for.

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)**. One (N-26-72) observed at Bonny Reservoir State Recreation Area, Yuma Co. on 3 October 1976 by Peter Gent, Michael Moulton and Bruce Webb. The O.R.C. files contain written documentation provided by all three observers, and photographs by Bruce Webb. The details of this observation have been provided by Webb (1976). It should be noted that this same paper contains an account and photograph of an individual observed by Jim Dennis, west of Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo Co. on 6 July 1975. (The O.R.C. has not reviewed this record). This species has displayed a pattern of vagrancy that has produced sight records to the west, north and northeast of its breeding range, as far north as Michigan, and most of these fall within the period of September-November. Therefore, this species is to be expected to occur in Colorado on occasion, most often in the fall, and Colorado observers are urged to be on the lookout for more birds.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*)**. See Part V of this report.



Max Ellen Peters

## PART II-REPORTED SPECIES NOT ADDED TO THE COLORADO LIST

Reports of the following species not currently on the Colorado list of birds were received and reviewed by the O.R.C. For the reasons stated, none of these species were added to the Colorado list.

**BARNACLE GOOSE (Branta leucopsis)**. Two individuals of this species were observed and photographed on 26 and 27 October 1975 along the Frying Pan River at the Elk Willow Campground (elevation 8827') near Basalt, Eagle County (N-8-69). The photographs clearly indicated that the birds were correctly identified. However, a strong possibility existed that these geese were escapes as they are fairly popular aviary species. No additional details concerning this possibility were provided by the observer after being contacted by the Chairman. In May 1977, O.R.C. member Dave A. Griffiths learned that these geese were purchased in the Midwest, brought to the Basalt area and subsequently released. They had not been banded. Based upon this information, this species was not added to the Colorado list.

**WHITE-TAILED HAWK (Buteo albicaudatus)**. Written documentation supporting the sighting of a bird of this species in Lakewood, Jefferson Co. on 12 May 1976 (N-10-71) was reviewed by the O.R.C. The documentation included rough sketches of the bird. However, both the written description and the sketches were much too incomplete to serve as a basis for adding this species to the state list. Specifically, the observer saw a hawk with white underparts, a white tail and a dark subterminal band. The wings and upperparts were not seen. All of these marks are indeed typical of a White-tail, however, they do not preclude the possibility of a Swainson's Hawk (B. swainsoni). Even the lack of the breastband typical of most Swainson's does not eliminate that possibility as some birds, especially subadults, lack it. The lack of lighter barring in the tail (aside from the strong band) also tends to separate a White-tail from a Swainson's. While the description did not mention such bands, neither did it say that the tail lacked them. This is a case where stating what was not seen can be as important as stating what was seen. In summary, neither the written description nor the field sketches were sufficient to eliminate the Swainson's Hawk. The observer is to be commended for being astute enough to make sketches of what he saw at the time of the observations, and all birders would do well to follow suit as this is often very beneficial to a report of a rare bird.

**BLACK RAIL (Laterallus jamaicensis)**. A report of a single bird of this species was received by the O.R.C., supporting an observation on 20 April 1976 at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co. (N-17-65). The observer reported seeing "A small black bird, the size of a bat with dangling legs . . . it flushed just in front of me, flew around a bend (in a ditch) some twenty feet away, close to the ground." The observer most likely did indeed observe a Black Rail. However, the O.R.C. felt that with the few seconds the observer had with the bird in view he still could have provided more definitive details than he did. For example, what were his impressions of body shape, bill shape and length, tail size, etc.

Was the spotting and barring on the sides seen or not? Complete details of key field marks are necessary for the inclusion of a new species to the state list.

**BLACK RAIL (Laterallus jamaicensis)**. The O.R.C. received a report of a single bird observed near Ridgway, Ouray Co. 27 September 1976 (N-17-76). This report was the most detailed sight report of a Black Rail the O.R.C. has yet received. The observer reported seeing a sparrow-sized bird, very dark in color, mottled long, dangling legs. Like the other reports of Black Rails, this bird was most likely a Black Rail in fact, but once again the details provided were not felt to be as complete and exhaustive as the O.R.C. strongly feels are necessary for adding a new species to the state list. It is frustrating for the O.R.C. and the observers to be in such a position, but in order for the state list to be meaningful, there must be rather stringent requirements applied for the addition of new species, and the O.R.C. stands by this policy.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Archilochus colubris)**. The O.R.C. has received written documentation (including field sketches) of a female of this species observed on 5 and 6 May 1976 at Bonny Reservoir State Recreation Area, Yuma Co. (N-31-67). The O.R.C. felt that this report was not sufficient to add this species to the state list because of the fact that female Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds (A. alexandri) are generally considered to be indistinguishable in the field. While the Ruby-throated is certainly the most likely of the two to occur at Bonny Reservoir, Black-chinned Hummingbirds are known to wander into northern Colorado, and the possibility can't be excluded in this case. It is also noteworthy to mention that this report is a good reply to those who believe that the O.R.C. never looks unfavorably upon the reports of its own members. This report was submitted by its Chairman at the time, and the membership soundly stated it was insufficient to allow the addition of this species to the state list.

#### PART III-SPECIES DELETED FROM THE COLORADO LIST

**BLACK BRANT (Branta nigricans)**. The A.O.U. (1976) now considers this bird to be a subspecies of the Brant (B. bernicla), so that the Black Brant is now B. b. nigricans. Since both forms are recorded from Colorado, their merging lowers the Colorado list by one species.

**MEXICAN DUCK (Anas diazi) and MOTTLED DUCK (A. fulvigula)**. These species have been deleted from the state list because the Colorado specimens in the Denver Museum of Natural History (#353, 20557, 24392, 25374 and 33794) have been examined by John R. Hubbard, of the New Mexico Fish and Game Dept., who considers none of the specimens to be pure examples of those species (Betsy Webb, pers. comm.).

**RUFFED GROUSE (Bonasa umbellus)**. All of the material in the O.R.C. files on this species have been examined by Clait E. Braun, Wildlife Researcher



for the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the recognized authority on Colorado grouse. He has stated that all Colorado reports of Ruffed Grouse "could be and undoubtedly were blue grouse." The O.R.C. has agreed with this assessment of the status of this bird in Colorado and has deleted it from the state list.

ICELAND GULL (Larus glaucoides). The Colorado specimen of this species (DMNH #18886) has been examined by Roxanne Laybourne of the American Museum of Natural History and determined to be a Thayer's Gull (L. thayeri) (Betsy Webb, pers. comm.), and therefore, this species must be dropped from the Colorado list.

#### PART IV-REPORTS OF RARE SPECIES

The following is a summary of the 152 records received and processed by the O.R.C. in 1976 and 1977. Some species included are no longer on the list of species for which the O.R.C. solicits documentation.

##### CLASS A RECORDS

(Records in which the submitted documentation supports the stated identification)

ARCTIC LOON (Gavia arctica). Two (1-76-16) Prewitt Res., Washington Co. 16 Nov. 1975 (SB). One (1-76-105) Sloan's Lake, Denver Co. 22-23 Oct. 1976 (VR). There are now 23 records for Colorado and the species is now considered a regular and expected fall migrant.

RED-THROATED LOON (G. stellata). One (1-76-106) Sloan's Lakes, Denver Co. 27 Oct. 1976 (VR,RA,JRC,JR). Fourth state record.

GREEN HERON (Butorides virescens). One (5-76-21) Durango, La Plata Co. 19 Jan., 26 Apr. 1976 (RWS). First winter report.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Florida caerulea). One (5-77-21) near bridge over Yampa R. on Highway 318 near Maybell, Moffat Co. 23 May 1973 (MS). Two (5-76-56) 4 miles north of junction of I-76 and Kersey Road, Weld Co. 31 May 1976 (HH-photos on file). One (5-77-38) Beebe Draw Gun Club at LaSalle, Weld Co. 26 Apr., 20 May 1977 (WPG). One (5-77-55) McCoy, Eagle Co. 15-16 May 1977 (ME). There are now 15 state records.

CATTLE EGRET (Bubulcus ibis). One (5-76-114) Boulder Res., Boulder Co. 31 Oct. 1976 (ET). There are now 25 state records.

LOUISIANA HERON (Hydranassa tricolor). One (5-77-39) Masters, Weld Co. 22-31 May 1977 (GM). One (5-77-48) Pueblo Res., Pueblo Co. 30 May 1977 (CK). One (5-77-47) Wellington, Larimer Co. 31 May 1977 (MJ). Sixth-eighth state records.

ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossi). One (8-76-11) Valmont Res., Boulder Co. 20-21 Dec. 1975 (BK, PJ). There are now 28 state records.

EUROPEAN WIGEON (Anas penelope). One male (8-76-34) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co. 3 Apr. 1976 (RA). Seventh state record (all but one are from early April-early May).

HARLEQUIN DUCK (Histrionicus histrionicus). One female or immature (8-76-108) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co. 24 Oct. 1976 (RA, TS). Sixth state record (1st since 1940).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (Melanitta deglandi). Three females or immatures (8-77-15) Totton Res., near Cortez, Montezuma Co. 23 Oct. 1976 (RWS). There is only one published record of this species from the Western Slope, that being 5 on Mesa L., Mesa Co. in Oct. 1912 (Bailey and Niedrach 1965, Davis 1969).

SURF SCOTER (M. perspicillata). One male (8-76-84) Marston Res., Jefferson Co. 14 May 1976 (VT). Twenty-ninth state record.

BLACK SCOTER (M. nigra). Three females or immatures (8-76-100) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 12 Oct. 1976 (JR, VR). Two females or immatures (8-76-95) Boulder, Boulder Co. 23 Oct. 1976 (JR). Two females or immatures Cloverleaf Res., Boulder Co. 5-6 Nov. 1976 (JR, TV). Eleventh-thirteenth state records.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buteo lineatus). One adult (10-76-22) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 15 Feb. 1976 (MM). This is the only mid-winter record in Colorado. One adult (10-76-47) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 5 May 1976 (JR). One immature (10-76-97) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co. 27 Sep. 1976 (RA). One adult (10-77-73) on Highway 14 at Weld-Larimer Co. line 2 Sep. 1977 (BM). Webb (1978) has reviewed the status of this bird in Colorado.

PIPING PLOVER (Charadrius melodus). Two (18-77-20) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 23 Apr. 1977 (MJ, MM, JP, JS). Twenty-third state record.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Limnodromus griseus). One (19-87-8) Boulder, Boulder Co. 4 Oct. 1976 (RA). Four (19-77-6) Union Res., Weld Co. 23-24 May 1976 (PM, BW). One (19-76-89) Jackson Res., Morgan Co. 6 Sep. 1976 (JR). Sixth-eighth state records.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis). One (19-76-102) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 22-24 Aug. 1976 (RA, DAG). One (19-77-67) Jackson Res., Morgan Co. 4 Sep. 1977 (RA, JR). One (19-77-20) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 7 Sep. 1977 (TM). Fourteenth-sixteenth state records (all but three are from late August and early September).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (Limosa haemastica). One (19-76-49) Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co. 8 May 1976 (JR). One (19-76-57) Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co. 30-31 May 1976 (HH, WL, photos on file-HH). Seventh and eighth state records (all but one in spring, mostly in late May).

RED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus fulicarius). One (21-76-91) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 11-13 Sep. 1976 (RA, JR). Eighth state records. Half of all state records are from 1975 and 1976.

Stercorarius Sp. NOTE: Because most observations of jaegers in Colorado involve immatures, which are often very difficult to identify even by someone with considerable field experience, it is felt that under most circumstances Colorado observers simply do not have the necessary expertise to identify most immature jaegers. Therefore, all records of immature jaegers (regardless of what species they are identified by the observer) will be treated as jaeger sp. One (22-76-28) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 27 Feb. 1976 (MOS). One (22-76-92) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 11 Sept. 1976 (RA). One (22-76-96) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 17-25 Sep. 1976 (RA). One (22-76-113) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 6 Nov. 1976 (JR). One (22-76-117) Prewitt Res., Washington Co. 24 Nov. 1976 (JR). One (22-76-123) Marston Res., Jefferson Co. 11 Dec. 1976 (TG). One (22-77-65) Union Res., Weld Co. 4 Sep. 1977 (RA, JR). There are now 31 records of jaegers (including all species and all plumages) from Colorado.

PARASITIC JAEGER (S. parasiticus). One adult (22-77-67) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 3 Aug. 1977 (TM). One adult (22-77-59) Union Res., Weld Co. 13-14 Aug. 1977 (RA, MM, PM). One adult (22-77-71) Chatfield Res., Douglas Co. 17 Sep. 1977 (HK).

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri). One immature (23-76-18) Centennial Park, Englewood, Arapahoe Co. 20 Dec. 1975 (JR). One immature (23-76-29) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 22 Feb., 7 Mar. 1976 (JR). One immature (23-76-116) Prewitt Res., Washington Co. 24 Nov. 1976 (JR). One adult (23-76-130) Lake Sangraco, Adams Co. 13 Dec. 1976 (RA). One immature (23-77-70) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 5 Feb. 1977 (JR). One sub-adult (23-77-13) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 5-25 Mar. 1977 (JR). There are now 22 records from Colorado.

LAUGHING GULL (L. atricilla). Two winter adults (23-76-4) Union Res., Weld Co. 1 Nov. 1975 (RA, JR). One adult (23-76-79) C.F. & I. Lakes, Pueblo Co. 7 Jun. 1976 (DAG). One winter adult (23-76-112) Union Res., Weld Co. 23 Oct. 1976 (JR). One adult (23-77-19) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 17 Apr. 1977 (TM). There are now 14 state records, and the species is recorded annually, mostly in the spring.

LITTLE GULL (L. minutus). One adult (23-76-48) Jumbo Res., Logan Co. 8 May 1976 (JR). Three immatures (23-76-62, 23-77-5, 23-77-60) Union Res., Weld Co. 15 May, 27 Jun. 1976 (RA, PM, JR, CW, photos on file-PM). Second and third state records.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla). One immature (23-76-118) Union Res., Weld Co. 27 Nov. 1976 (JR). Seventh state record, four of which are fall.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (Zenaida asiatica). One (25-77-37) 20 miles west of Grover, Weld Co. 3 May 1977 (SA, RP, VHR, VS). Eighth state record.

SPOTTED OWL (Strix occidentalis). One (28-76-90) one mile west of Silverthorne, Summit Co. 5 Sep. 1976 (HK, UK). Thirteenth state record.

Chaetura Sp. One (30-77-4) Ridgway, Ouray Co. 26 Sep. 1976 (JRG, HK). This is the fourth record of a Chaetura swift from Western Colorado (Davis 1969) and none have been identified to species.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Lampornis clemenciae). Five females or immatures (31-76-1) 7 miles north of Durango, La Plata Co. 7 Sep. 1975 (EF, RWS). Fifth state record.

COMMON FLICKER (intergrade) (Colaptes auratus). One (33-77-3) Grand Junction, Mesa Co. 2-20 Jan. 1977 (HA). Davis (1969) records only one Yellow-shafted or intergrade Flicker from western Colorado (Grand Junction-17 Dec. 1966).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus). One immature (33-76-124) two miles south of Breen, La Plata Co. 19-28 Oct. 1976 (DS). We know of three previous records from western Colorado from Grand Co. in 1877 and Routt Co. in 1908 (Davis 1969) and one at Hotchkiss, Delta Co., Dec. 1973-Jan 10, 1974 (TC).

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (Picoides scalaris). One female (33-76-30) Colorado Springs, El Paso Co. 12-19 Feb. 1976 (DB-photo on file). Rather rare in El Paso Co. One male (33-76-36) Boulder, Boulder Co. 27 Mar. 1976 (HPC). There appears to be only one other record from the Platte R. drainage in Colorado (1 at Red Rocks, Jefferson Co. 20 Sep. 1964), based on Bailey and Niedrach (1965) and Holt (1975).

EASTERN PHOEBE (Sayornis phoebe). One (34-76-16) Boulder, Boulder Co. 21 Dec. 1975 (CJ). This appears to be the only report in Colorado between 1 Oct. and 11 Mar., according to Bailey and Niedrach (1965) and Holt (1975).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (Pyrocephalus rubinus). One female (34-76-19) Pastorius Res., La Plata Co. 20 Sep. 1975 (AN). One female (34-77-18) La Junta, Otero Co. 23 Mar. 1977 (BT). Sixteenth and seventeenth state records (most are in spring or fall).

PURPLE MARTIN (Progne subis). One male (36-76-41) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 29 Apr. 1976 (RA). One female (36-76-55) sixteen miles south of Ft. Morgan, Morgan Co. 25 May 1976 (JCR). Eighth and ninth Eastern Slope records.

PYGMY NUTHATCH (Sitta pygmaea). One (39-76-103) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 4 Sep. 1976 (RA). This appears to be the 2nd plains record of this species,

the first being two at Barr Lake 18-25 Sep. 1960.

HOUSE WREN (Troglodytes aedon). One (42-76-125) Littleton, Arapahoe Co. 20 Dec. 1975 (RA). There appears to be only two other winter reports from Colorado: one in Jefferson Co. 19 Feb. 1900 and one in Arapahoe Co. 28 Dec. 1934 (Bailey and Niedrach 1965).

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN (Cistothorus platensis). One (42-76-39) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 6-7 May 1976 (JR). One (42-76-81) Jumbo Res., Logan Co. 16 May 1976 (NM). One (42-77-17) C.F. & I. Lakes, Pueblo Co. 26 Mar. 1977 (AB, EB). Eleventh-thirteenth state records, the majority being spring records from the northeastern part of the state.

CANYON WREN (Catherpes mexicanus). One (42-76-104) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 22 Aug. 1976 (RA). There appear to be no other records from a plains locality (Bailey and Niedrach 1965).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (Toxostoma curvirostra). One (42-76-80) two miles north of Silverthorne, Summit Co. 30 Apr., 7 May 1976 (LB-photo on file). One (42-76-54) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 18 May 1976 (HG,SW). These are the third and fourth record from outside the Arkansas River Valley, and the former record is the first mountain record.

VARIED THRUSH (Ixoreus naevius). One male (44-77-16) Ridges Basin Rd. near Bodo Wildlife Area, La Plata Co. 21 Nov. 1976 (RWS). Neither Bailey and Niedrach (1965) nor Davis (1969) mention any Western Slope records of this species.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (Catharus minimus). One (44-76-73) Boulder, Boulder Co. 13 May 1976 (WL). One (44-76-67) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 16 May 1976 (RA). One (44-76-72) Crow Valley Park, Weld Co. 16 May 1976 (WL). One (44-76-85) Boulder, Boulder Co. 16 May 1976 (FH). One (44-76-58) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 17 May 1976 (MOS). One (44-76-75) Jumbo Res., Logan Co. 29 May 1976 (WL). Eleventh-sixteenth state records (virtually all in May).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (Anthus spragueii). Two (46-76-51) Lake Estes, Larimer Co. 28 Apr. 1976 (WR). One (46-76-107) Table Mtn., Boulder Co. 23 Aug. 1976 (FH). Tenth and eleventh state records.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus). One (51-76-44) Two Buttes Res., Baca Co. 1 May 1976 (RA,NM). Fourth state record (three in May, one in September).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (V. flavifrons). One (51-77-64) Colorado Springs, El Paso Co. 24 Aug. 1977 (WH). Tenth state record (first fall record, all others late April-late May).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (V. philadelphicus). One (51-76-86) Boulder, Boulder Co. 25 May 1976 (FH). Nineteenth state record (fourteen are fall records).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (Protonotaria citrea). One male (52-76-43) Boulder, Boulder Co. 8-12 May 1976 (PE, RA, NM, photo on file-NM). One or two males (52-77-27) Ft. Collins, Larimer Co. 7 May 1977 (SHB, DH, WLH, DV). Sixteenth and seventeenth state records (of which 14 are in spring, and 12 in May).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (Helminthos vermivorus). One (52-76-45) Boulder, Boulder Co. 8 May 1976 (MM, JS, photo on file-JS). One (52-76-79) Boulder, Boulder Co. 20 May 1976 (RV). Twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth state records (all but five are spring, late April-mid-May).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (Vermivora chrysoptera). One male (52-77-22) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 7-9 May 1977 (RA, WL). One male (52-77-33) Boulder, Boulder Co. 14 May 1977 (PJ). Nineteenth and twentieth records (all but four are spring, rest mostly mid and late May).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (V. pinus). One (52-76-40) Two Buttes Res., Baca Co. 5-7 May 1976 (PJ, JR). One male (52-76-77) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 6 Jun. 1976 (RA). Sixth and seventh state records (all spring).

CAPE MAY WARBLER (Dendroica tigrina). One male (52-76-43) Boulder, Boulder Co. 10-12 May 1976 (RA, PM, JR, NM, photo on file-PM). One female or immature (52-76-109) Boulder, Boulder Co. 31 Oct. 1976 (RA). This is only the second fall record for Colorado, the first being at Waterton, Jefferson Co. 20-23 Nov. 1974. One male (52-77-32) Moraine Park Campground, Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer Co. 6 May 1977 (PH). One male (52-77-28) Lower Dixon Res., Larimer Co. 7 May 1977 (DL). One male (52-77-50) Endovalley, Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer Co. 12-13 Jun. 1977 (KB, FK, Swo), with complete details provided by Bass (1977). Ninth-thirteenth state records (all but two in spring).

HERMIT WARBLER (D. occidentalis). One male (52-76-68) Boulder, Boulder Co. 20 May 1976 (RV). Second state record.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (D. dominica). One male (52-77-24) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 15 May 1977 (WL, MM, PM, photos on file-WL). Ninth state record.

PINE WARBLER (D. pinus). One male (52-76-98) Pingree Park near Rustic, Larimer Co. 11 Jul. 1976 (TB). Ninth state record. This is the first summer record, all others are from September-December with one May record.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (D. discolor). One male (52-76-71) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 15-16 May 1976 (photos on file-PM, JS). Fourth state record (all mid-May to early June).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (Seiurus motacilla). One (52-77-23) Bonny Res.,

Yuma Co. 14 May 1977 (WL, MM). Second state record.

CANADA WARBLER (Wilsonia canadensis). One male (52-76-2) Boulder, Boulder Co. 13-16 Oct. 1975 (JR). One male (52-76-66) Colorado Springs, El Paso Co. 26 May 1976 (CC). Thirteenth and fourteenth state records (nine spring, five fall).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Sturnella magna). Six (54-76-33) Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co. 8-9 May 1976 (JR). One (52-76-76) Red Lion, Logan Co. 30 May 1976 (WL). The only acceptable Colorado records come from this single locality.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (Icterus parisorum). One male (52-77-49) Unaweep Canyon, Mesa Co. 21 May 1977 (PJ). Fifth state record (all spring).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (Cassidix mexicanus). Five males and three females (54-76-68) Monte Vista, Rio Grande Co. 12 Jun. 1976 (JR). The small population at this site has been present since 1973, as reported by Stepney (1975). There are four records from other localities in Colorado (Gunnison, La Plata and Pueblo Cos).

SCARLET TANAGER (Piranga olivacea). One male (55-76-115) Boulder, Boulder Co. 16 Jun. 1976 (photo on file-FH). One male (55-77-53) Poudre Canyon, Larimer Co. 19 Jun. 1977 (photo on file-EDB). There are now 39 state records (all but 10 are spring, mid-May to mid-June).

SUMMER TANAGER (P. rubra). One male (55-76-50) Animas Valley near Durango, La Plata Co. 7 May 1976 (GC). Thirty-eighth state record (all but five are spring).

PURPLE FINCH (Carpodacus purpureus). One female or immature (56-76-25) Boulder, Boulder Co. 6 Dec. 1975 (JR). One female or immature (56-76-24) Ft. Collins, Larimer Co. 20 Dec. 1975, banded 11 Jan. 1976, retrapped and photographed 16 Feb. 1976 (photos on file-RR). One female or immature (56-76-32) Boulder, Boulder Co. 29 Feb. 1976 (JR). One adult male (56-77-9) Evergreen, Jefferson Co. 2 May 1976 (WWB). Two females or immatures (56-76-101) Boulder, Boulder Co. 18 Oct. 1976 (VR). Two females or immatures (56-76-111) Barr Lake, Adams Co. 30 Oct. 1976 (RA). One female or immature (56-77-12) Dry Creek Res., El Paso Co. 2 Jan. 1977 (DAG). One female or immature (56-77-10) Bonny Res., Yuma Co. 22-29 Jan. 1977 (MM, PM, JS). There are now 25 state records, and the species is recorded every winter.

BAIRD'S SPARROW (Ammodramus bairdii). One male (56-76-52) Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co. 8-9 May 1976 (JR).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (Ammodramus leconteii). One (56-77-29) Dry Creek Res. near Wellington, Larimer Co. 7 May 1977 (EH, JWS, photos on file-JWS). Second state record.

The following records were received and accepted but not considered rare enough to include in the main report: Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)-Apr., Weld Co. (KM); Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus)-Dec., Boulder Co. (BK); Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)-Sep., Arapahoe Co. (TM); Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus)-Dec., Boulder Co. (IG, LG); Mocking-bird (Mimus polyglottos)-Oct.-Jan., Boulder Co. (JH); Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum)-winter, Larimer Co. (CCu); Bohemian Waxwing (Bombicilla garrulus)-Apr., Summit Co. (SS); Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dendroica caerulescens)-Sep., Larimer Co. (CCu); Bay-breasted Warbler (D. castanea)-May, Boulder Co. (KN); White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis)-Dec., Boulder Co. (KN).

## CONTRIBUTORS:

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CLASS B & C RECORDS

(Records in which the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was made or in which details are incomplete)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Florida caerulea). One (5-77-57) Union Res., Weld Co. 9 Aug. 1977. This bird, which was an immature, was confusing. It had a bicolored bill, typical of the Little Blue, but it also had yellow lores, typical of a Snowy Egret (the Little Blue should have bluish or grayish lores). The observer has withdrawn this record as a Little Blue Heron, considering it instead as a white heron sp.

TRUMPETER SWAN (Olor buccinator). One (8-76-55) Valmont Res., Boulder,



Boulder Co. 10-28 Apr. 1976. This bird, which was observed by many people, displayed many of the characters of a Trumpeter Swan, and was strongly suspected by most to be one. However, most of the characters which this identification was based were relative ones, and difficult to assess because the bird could not be directly compared with any other swans. It appeared to be quite large, to have the sloping profile of head and bill and to have the reddish or pinkish stripe along the bill and lacked the yellow spot on the lores. No voice was heard. Almost all observers, including those who submitted reports, felt the identification to be tentative, not definite.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buteo lineatus). One (10-76-74) Tamarack Ranch, Crook, Logan Co. 30 May 1976. This bird was observed at a great distance, and the O.R.C. felt that the observation had insufficient details.

OSPREY (Pandion halieatus). One (11-76-14) along Plum Creek east of Waterton, Douglas Co. 3 Jan. 1976. The O.R.C. felt that other possible species were not adequately excluded in this case. Specifically, both Rough-legged Hawks and subadult Bald Eagles have sufficient plumage variations that could produce a bird very similar in appearance to the Osprey, and both are far more likely in the winter.

COMMON GALLINULE (Gallinula chloropus). One (17-76-82) Union Res., Weld Co. 30 May or 6 June. 1976. Like many of the reports given a C rating by the O.R.C., this one seemed to be a good report, but just lacked the complete and exhaustive details the O.R.C. felt is warranted in a species of this rarity in Colorado (there are only 4 Colorado records).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Limnodromus griseus). Nine (19-77-68) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 1 Sept. 1977. The observer identified these birds on the basis of their call, described as a "low, 3-note call." The diagnostic call of the Short-billed Dowitcher Sandpiper does have a low, three-noted call, and Long-billed Dowitcher may give its low note several in sequence on occasion.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis). One (19-77-36) near Wray, Yuma Co. 1 May 1977, photos on file. The O.R.C. felt that the photographs were not sufficient to eliminate the possibility of the Upland Sandpiper, and the written descriptions were partially contradictory in color of the bird. However, the bird did appear to be too short-legged and short-billed to be an Upland Sandpiper. In short, the submitted material was felt by the O.R.C. to be insufficient to make a definite identification.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri). One (23-76-64) C.F. & I. Lakes, Pueblo Co. 1 Nov. 1975, photos on file. One (23-76-23) Boulder, Boulder Co. 22 Dec. 1975. In both of these cases, the O.R.C. felt that insufficient number of details significant to identification were presented. Identification of this bird is best done on the basis of many characters.

LAUGHING GULL (L. atricilla). One (23-76-87) Two Buttes Res., Baca Co. 16 May 1976. The O.R.C. felt this report was too confusing and uncertain about the white pattern on the wings. Three (23-76-127) Lake Henry, Crowley Co. 5 Sept. 1976. The O.R.C. felt that the written description and discussion did not adequately eliminate the possibility of immature Franklin's Gulls.

RIVOLI'S HUMMINGBIRD (Eugenes fulgens). One (31-76-65) Evergreen, Jefferson Co. 19 Jul. 1975. The O.R.C. felt that this report was much too brief in its details, and the various other possibilities were not adequately excluded.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (Anthus spragueii). One (46-76-38) Masonville, Larimer Co. 27 Mar. 1976. The O.R.C. felt that the details on this report were not sufficiently complete and exhaustive.

WILSON'S WARBLER (Wilsonia pusilla). One (52-76-15) Boulder, Boulder Co. from early Dec. 1975 through early Jan. 1976. The O.R.C. believed the details on this report were much too brief, considering that this species has never before been recorded in Colorado in winter.

VESPER SPARROW (Pooecetes gramineus). Three (56-76-17) Boulder, Boulder Co. 21 Dec. 1975. Once again, the O.R.C. felt that the details were too sketchy in this report.

#### PART V-SPECIMENS

The O.R.C. does not normally deal with specimen reports. However, to make O.R.C. reports complete regarding recent unusual bird records, notable recent, little-known or unpublished specimens will be included. DMNH-Denver Museum of Natural History.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (Histrionicus histrionicus). Parkes and Nelson (1976) reported on a previously unrecorded Colorado specimen (and the only definite breeding record): a downy young collected on Vallecito Creek, La Plata Co. by A.W. Anthony 15 Jul. 1883 (Carnegie Museum of Natural History #21786).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Buteo platypterus). One female (DMNH #36714) found dead on Highway 285 1.5 miles west of Grant, Park Co. 3 Sep. 1977 by Harold Holt. There are only about three other Colorado specimens, and very few records of any from the mountains.

RED PHARALOPE (Phalaropus fulicarius). One male (DMNH #36147) collected live at Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co. 16 Sep. 1975 by Denver Zoo personnel (led by Edward Schmidt, Curator of Birds). It died in captivity several days later. Second Colorado specimen.

BOREAL OWL (Aegolius funereus). One male (DMNH #36064) collected near

Estes Park, Larimer Co. 1 Apr. 1970 by Allegra Collister. One (DMNH #36698) found dead at Evergreen, Jefferson Co. 2 Feb. 1978 by Sylvia Brockner. There are apparently only three other Colorado specimens.

SAW-WHET OWL (A. acadicus). One juvenile (DMNH #T-335) found dead in Denver Co. 25 Jun. 1976 by Mrs. V.L. Johnson. One (DMNH #1978-62) found dead near Castle Rock, Douglas Co. 15 Dec. 1977 by Sally Cockrum. There are about 20 Colorado specimens.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (Stellula calliope). One immature male (DMNH #36146) collected in Arapahoe Co. 16 Aug. 1956 by Robert J. Niedrach. This is in addition to another individual collected at the same time (DMNH #36455) and previously reported by Bailey and Niedrach (1965).

ALDER FLYCATCHER (Empidonax alnorum). One female (DMNH #36456) collected Wray, Yuma Co. 26 May 1906 by Will C. Ferril. One female (DMNH #36455) collected Holly, Prowers Co. 1 Jun. 1908 by H.G. Smith. Apparently the only Colorado records. Both identified by Dr. Alan B. Phillips.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (Vermivora chrysoptera). One male (at Indiana University) collected in 1881 in Colorado (possibly Elbert Co.) by Frank M. Drew. Reported by Kowalski (1978). Only Colorado specimen.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (Dendroica fusca). One male (DMNH #36144) found dead at Green Mountain, Lakewood, Jefferson Co. 3 Jun. 1975 by John Kenning. First Colorado specimen.

NORTHERN ORIOLE (Icterus galbula). One male "Bullock's" (DMNH #36165) found dead in Denver Co. 1 Jan. 1976 by Frances Arterburn. First winter record.

SUMMER TANAGER (Piranga rubra). One first-year male (DMNH #36423) Golden, Jefferson Co., first seen 23 Apr. 1976 and found dead 1 May 1976 by Mrs. Jerry Cebula. Fourth Colorado specimen.

The following notable specimens, formerly in the collection of Western State College at Gunnison, Colorado, have now been deposited in the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History, and are given with their DMNH catalog numbers. All are from Gunnison, Gunnison Co. Most have previously been mentioned by Bailey and Niedrach (1965).

SNOWY PLOVER (Charadrius alexandrinus). One (36722) May 1966 by D. Rado-  
vich.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (Pyrocephalus rubinus). One female (36721) 18 Nov. 1952 by A.S. Hyde.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER (Parula americana). One male (36717) 24 May 1952 by A.S. Hyde. One male (36724) 24 May 1977 by T.T. Hariss.

DICKISSEL (Spiza americana). One (36718) 18 Sep. 1956 by A.S. Hyde.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (Ammodramus sayannarum). One (36723) 15 Oct. 1953 by A.S. Hyde.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (Passerherbulus caudacutus). One (36720) 6 May 1952 by A.S. Hyde.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (Ammospiza caudacuta). One (36719) 24 Oct. 1952 by A.S. Hyde.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the many Colorado birders who have contributed the many reports of unusual birds contained herein, and I encourage them to continue to do so. I would also like to thank the following persons: Betsy Webb, for her assistance in putting together the specimen section and for permission to include these records; to Laurence Binford for examining the documentation of the Lesser Black-backed Gull; to Alan Craig and Van Remsen, who commented on an earlier draft of this report, and to Bruce Webb for his comments on a later draft. And finally, much thanks must go to Jack Reddall, who served as chairman from May 1972 to October 1977. His tremendous efforts have led to the establishment of the O.R.C. and the accumulation of an extensive and well-organized body of information.

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INDEX TO COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST  
and  
C.F.O. JOURNAL

Issues No. 1 through 32, Winter 1967 through Winter, 1978

(Editor's Note: We have thought for a couple of years that an index to our publication would be valuable. We invited our Grand Junction contingent to take on the task, and they performed admirably. We thank Kris Graves and Nyla Kladder for their work in putting together the data for the index. Their contributions are identified in the credit lines.

We also consulted with one of our librarian members, who informed us that splitting the index into subsections, instead of lumping it, is becoming more common. We certainly think it is more usable and therefore have constructed it this way).

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by Kris Graves and Hugh Kingery

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 NOTE: This index uses the latest  
 AOU Checklist names, popular and  
 scientific, as amended by the  
 Thirty-second and Thirty-third  
 Supplements  
 \* \* \*  
 P.S. Proofreading this index has  
 made the editor even more impressed  
 at the superb effort poured into its  
 preparation by our Grand Junction  
 contingent. We repeat our apprecia-  
 tion of their superb effort.



GENERAL NOTESIntensive Harrassment of a Golden  
Eagle by a Common Raven

Many species of birds respond to raptors with aerial attacks that usually persist until the raptor in question leaves the immediate area. On 9 May 1978, however, I observed an especially intense case of harrassment of a Golden Eagle by a Common Raven.

The drama unfolded as I was watching an eagle nest near Piceance Creek, about 25 miles southwest of Meeker (Rio Blanco County). The nest was of special interest since it had been active in 1976 and 1977; on my May 1978 visit there was no activity at the nest, although at least one eagle was staying in the immediate area.

Just before dark I was attracted to an approaching Common Raven by its persistent, loud calling. The raven continued to fly in a straight line for about 300 yards until it reached a pinyon pine with an eagle perched on top of it (about 300 yards from the nest). The raven then began dive-bombing the eagle, but the eagle remained perched in the tree. After a couple minutes of aerial harrassment, the raven landed in the tree about two feet from the eagle. Shortly, the raven then jumped onto the back of the eagle and began pecking it on the back of the head. After about 15 seconds of this, the eagle took to the air with the raven in pursuit. Both birds then disappeared behind a hill.

The above scenario struck me as especially unusual in two aspects. First, the raven actually came from a long distance to attack the eagle as if it knew the eagle would be there. (I had been watching the area and the eagle had not been active - it appeared perched for the night.) Secondly, it struck me that when the raven was on the back of the perched eagle, the raven was in an extremely vulnerable position should the eagle have decided to retaliate.

I am now wondering whether my observation is indicative of a regular behavior pattern of the Common Raven or whether this was a particularly brash bird? If anyone has observed a similar event, I would be interested in learning about it.

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\* \* \* \*

Suspected Nesting of Grace's Warbler on Eastern  
Slope

On 16 July 1978, between 9 and 10 a.m., a Grace's Warbler was seen about one mile south of Rye, Colorado. Observers were Dave and Carolyn Griffiths and David Silverman.

The bird's behavior was consistent. It approached the house from the west moving east, hopping through the ponderosas and occasionally

dropping to the ground. It was often seen with an insect in its beak as it left the premises east-bound. This pattern was repeated two more times at about fifteen to twenty minute intervals between observations. This behavior seems to indicate the bird was nesting despite the lateness of the season. No nesting site was found.

The Grace's Warbler was again observed at the same location near Rye by David Silverman on July 21, 1978, at about 6:30 p.m.

The photographs taken by Dave Griffiths (SLR/200mm lens) illustrate the field marks seen by all observers: a small warbler, gray on the back with wing bars, a bright yellow throat, a white belly trimmed with black streaks, and a yellow eye-line. It lacked the black "ear" and white eye-line of the eastern Yellow-throated Warbler and the dark throat of the Townsend's Warbler.

The Grace's Warbler is a fairly common breeder in the pine forests of Arizona, New Mexico, and south to Central America, but in Colorado, observations are not widespread. The best known breeding grounds are in the mountains near Durango in southwest Colorado. Reports in eastern Colorado are rare and only in migration.

The sighting near Rye was in Silverman's back yard near feeders which were frequented by chickadees, nuthatches, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. The area is a typical thin ponderosa pine stand similar to the Grace's Warbler habitat in southwestern Colorado and New Mexico.

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\* \* \* \*

#### SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN IN NORTHEASTERN COLORADO

While on the American Ornithologists' Union convention pelagic trip around the Farallon Islands on 26 August 1977, I renewed friendship with a fellow birder, Joseph A. Grzybowski, who formerly lived in Buffalo, New York. He is now in Norman, Oklahoma. During our conversation he casually inquired as to how common Short-billed Marsh Wrens (Cistothorus platensis) were in Colorado. I advised him that when I first moved to Colorado, Doctor Alfred M. Bailey, informed me that it was a rare bird in the state.

Joe went on to report that he and an associate, while birding in Colorado in June of 1977, found some Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Red Lion, in northeastern Colorado. I was quite amazed at this revelation.

In western New York, in proper locations, one experiences no difficulties finding Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Joe had made observations at most of these areas. So, I felt reasonably sure that Joe had seen Short-billed Marsh Wrens in Colorado.

My first opportunity to check on this area, came on 27 June, 1978. On that date, I visited the Red Lion Game Management Area. It is located in Sedgwick County, southwest of the town of Sedgwick, off State Route 138. I drove down a road toward Julesburg Reservoir. About four hundred yards from the dam, I pulled into a

parking lot on the north side of the road. Even before I emerged from the car, I heard, and instantly recognized the distinctive song of the Short-billed Marsh Wren. By studying the terrain in front of me with binoculars, I spotted a Short-billed Marsh Wren singing from the top of a sedge. In about fifteen minutes time, I estimated that in the area under surveillance, there were fourteen to seventeen individuals in the colony.

Having had prior experience with this wren in the east and lower Ontario, I was delighted to see this bird again, and to especially enjoy its song. Through the binoculars, I was able to note the stripes on the head and the lack of a prominent white eye-line, that would have been on the Long-billed Marsh Wren.

I further eliminated the Long-billed Marsh Wren, by location; no cattails in evidence where the Short-bills were singing. To me, the songs differ and are distinct.

From the date, it would appear, that possibilities exist for this bird breeding in northeastern Colorado.

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\* \* \* \*

#### BLACK PHOEBE AT DURANGO

It was a hot sunny day--and August 1977. My friend, Stacey Bouman and I had just walked out of my back yard to the Animas River when she spotted a black bird with a white belly in a small alder tree. Since neither of us had ever seen the Black Phoebe, we couldn't believe our eyes. She said, "What is it?" and I said, "Well, I think it has to be a Black Phoebe. What else could it be with that coloring and size? But I've only seen pictures of them before now."

The bird cooperated very nicely until we had carefully noted the dark flycatcher bill, the black front, the white underparts and the black tail feathers, edged in white on the sides. The sharp contrast of the black and white were quite notable. The eyes were black. The legs and feet were black. Yes, it was the first noted sighting of a Black Phoebe on the Western Slope of Colorado and perhaps the first one in Colorado.

Later, two were seen and they stayed along the Animas River in Durango from 9 August to 23 September 1977.

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## C.F.O. FIELD TRIPS

February 18. Bonny Reservoir. Search for Snowy Owls and other Bonny Reservoir specialties. The leader has Idalia high school students on the lookout for the big white birds, so that if any are on hand, he has a good chance of finding them. Meet between 8 and 9 a.m. in the leader's house 3 miles east of Hale. Birding from 8-9 in the leader's front yard and conifer wind row. Those who have campers may park them overnight in his front yard. Elinor Wills reports this as a terrific trip last year. Phone leader, Dan Pinkham, 354-7305, for directions.

June 1-3. Latilong 13. Of all the Latilongs, the one immediately east of Denver seems to have received the least attention of any in the state. Walter Graul will lead an exploratory weekend to the Limon Latilong to add to our knowledge of nesting birds of the Limon Latilong. From Latilong 13, he reports having seen a Mississippi Kite over a motel in Limon, the southernmost nesting spot for McCown's Longspur, and a mysterious tern, unidentified still. Meet Friday night, June 1, at the Midwest Motel.



Great Blue Heron

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