

C.F.O. Journal

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CFO JOURNAL is a quarterly publication 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 Dr., Boulder, CO 80303. Send rare bird reports to: CFO Official Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Dipper, by Narca Moore. Narca has many ties to Colorado and especially to the Boulder area, where she spent many of her formative years observing our wildlife and native vegetation. She was very active here in Front Range birding and wildlife groups. She left Colorado brimming with her own special observations on nature and with the drive to express these impressions through her artwork. Her drawings reflect the spirit of the living and nature's relationships, as well as a detailed image of her subject. She has illustrated for major publishers, and currently directs an illustrating firm in California.--DBB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If the excellent convention program organized by Dr. Ron Rydler is an indication of things to come, C.F.O. should have a good year coming up. All of us will be looking forward to next year's convention to be held in Boulder. Meetings will be held on the historical Colorado Chautauqua grounds, with the Flatirons as a backdrop and Bluebell Canyon to leisurely bird. Local arrangements will be handled by several Boulderites.

Although we have gained new members, increased costs may force us into raising annual dues from the current bargain low \$5.00 per year. The only way to keep dues at this level is to add still more members. I would like to ask each of you to encourage others to join. The inside of the mailing wrapper has application form. Recycle it to a non-member friend.

Since the only way we get to know one another is through the annual convention and field trips, I would also like to urge you to attend these trips which emphasize learning rather than listing. Furthermore send in your ideas for field trips and perhaps be a field trip leader.

Good birding!

Elinor Wills, President

FROM THE EDITORS

It should be evident that the new C.F.O. Journal is intended to serve the diverse interests of its members. We intend to provide a medium for everyone involved in Colorado field ornithology. Therefore we encourage you to submit material to "your" Journal. The wildlife artist, and photographer, can see examples of their work published. Birders can provide their knowledge on finding the birds of their particular area in the form of a site guide.

The professional and amateur can use the Journal to seek the aide of Colorado's active birding community in learning about sightings of a species under study (See the Bulletin Board Section). Later their results can be published in Scientific Form.

The cover illustration will be changed only once a year or until we receive a sufficient number of suitable high quality artistic drawings or photographs to enable us to feature a different artist each issue. Let us know if you'd like to submit your efforts to the cover of C.F.O. Journal.

BREEDING SHOREBIRDS IN THE ARKANSAS VALLEY

by Charles A. Chase III
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During the summer of 1978, I conducted a shorebird inventory of the Arkansas Valley for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. I was primarily looking for Snowy Plovers and Black-necked Stilts. I found 37 nests and 12 territories without nests of Snowy Plover, and I only observed five non-breeding Black-necked Stilts. The results of the inventory are shown in Table 1. Of particular note are the two pairs of Least Terns found nesting at Horse Creek and Adobe Creek Reservoirs. Both nests had three eggs each (instead of the typical two) and produced three fledglings each. All six were banded. This is the first Colorado nesting record since 1949. Four to six non-breeding Least Terns and several Forsters' Terns were also observed at southeastern reservoirs throughout the summer.



Figure 1. Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) chick. Horse Creek Reservoir, June 1978, Otero/Bent Counties, Colorado. Photo by Charles Chase III.



Figure 2. (top) Least Tern (Sterna albifrons) adult; (bottom) nest. Horse Creek Reservoir, June 1978, Otero/Bent Counties, Colorado. Photo by Charles Chase III.

TABLE 1

NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF NESTING CHARADRIIFORMES-ARKANSAS VALLEY-1978

SPECIES	DYE HOLBROOK CHERAW	HORSE CREEK	A DOBE CREEK NEE NOSHE OTHER	TOTAL
<u>AVOCET</u>				
nest	-	1	2	9
territory only	-	-	1	7
<u>MOUNTAIN PLOVER</u>				
nest	-	-	3	5
territory only	-	-	1	2
<u>SNOWY PLOVER</u>				
nest	-	-	21	37
territory only	-	-	6	12
<u>KILLDEER</u>				
nest	-	2	9	24
territory only	1	-	7	12
<u>LONG-BILLED CURLEW</u>				
nest	-	-	1	4
territory only	-	-	-	6
<u>SPOTTED SANDPIPER</u>				
nest	-	1	1	2
territory only	-	1	-	1
<u>LEAST TERN</u>				
nest	-	-	1	2
territory only	-	-	-	0

Black Terns attempted to nest at Dye Reservoir but were flooded out. Most shorebirds were on nests until late June and after that many broods of young could be found around the edges of the lakes. By late July, most young had fledged but still remained around the shorelines.

In addition to the breeding birds observed, many non-breeders and migrants were also found. These included non-breeding individuals of all the breeding species plus the following; many species of duck including Northern Shoveler, Pintail, and Wood Duck, Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, all the peeps including a flock of White-rumped Sandpipers (50-75), Marbled Godwits, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope and a large flock of 250+ Franklin's Gulls. The birds were most easily observed in early morning but nests were easier to locate during the hot part of the day. The large plover colony at Cheraw Reservoir provided the greatest number of Snowy Plovers while Horse Creek and Adobe Creek Reservoirs had the greatest variety of breeding shorebirds.

The constantly fluctuating water level of most eastern Colorado reservoirs causes a "boom or bust" type of breeding success. If the water rises it will flood nests as it did the Black Terns at Dye, or if it dries up then most species will abandon as happened at a portion of Horse Creek Reservoir. Wherever the water levels remained somewhat constant and there wasn't much recreational use, shorebirds did well. Even though there were large numbers of Western Grebes, I found no evidence of breeding. This I believe is due to the constantly fluctuating water levels. As long as irrigation remains man's highest priority for use of water in the eastern plains, (and it will probably remain so) the habitat for these shoreline nesting birds will continue to be highly variable. Even though a large number of birds summer on and near these reservoirs, care must be taken not to presume breeding is occurring unless, (1) a nest with eggs is found and/or (2) young are seen with an adult. With large numbers of farms nearby it is not uncommon to see escaped young ducks on these reservoirs so only the presence of a wild adult will guarantee that the young are wild.

The presence of these nesting shorebirds and other breeding birds, i.e., Cassin's Kingbird, White-necked Raven, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, and Cassin's Sparrow makes the Arkansas Valley a very exciting birding adventure. Care must be taken though because June temperatures around the reservoirs can rise to 120°F and this coupled with high humidity from the evaporating reservoirs can easily cause heat stroke and exhaustion. Hats and full canteens are a must. With the current interest and excitement of seeing Mississippi Kites breeding in Lamar City Park, birders should also take time out and investigate some of the breeding shorebirds of this area.

RAPTOR FOOD HABITS IN THE OIL SHALE REGION
OF NORTHWESTERN COLORADO

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The recent development of the oil shale resource in northwestern Colorado has increased interest in raptor ecology there, due to the possibility of detrimental environmental effects from the mining process. The oil shale region is dominated by the pinyon-juniper habitat type, a type in which relatively little is known of raptor food habits.

The purpose of this work was to contribute to the knowledge of raptors in the oil shale region and the pinyon-juniper type by describing the summer food habits of five species of raptors that nest there.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA: The study area was located in the lower elevations of Piceance Creek Basin, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The area is semi-arid, with about 36 cm of precipitation a year. Elevation of the study area ranged from 1800-2100 m. The dominant vegetative cover was pinyon-juniper (Pinus edulis - Juniperus osteosperma) with large areas of big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), and considerably lesser amounts of serviceberry (Amelanchier spp.) and oakbrush (Quercus gambeli). The terrain was generally hilly and steep, and there was very little low-growth vegetation (grasses and forbs). The small amount of riparian habitat, found mainly along Piceance Creek, was the exception to this. This area was flat, treeless, and dominated by sedges (Carex spp.), with small amounts of reed (Phragmites communis) and cattail (Typha latifolia).

METHODS: One nest site each of Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii), Red-Tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), and Long-eared Owl (Asio otus) were located by observing the birds. Several perch sites of Great Horned Owls (Bubo virginianus) were located by spotlighting the birds on the perches at night. Nest and perch site locations are shown in Fig. 1. Cast pellets were picked up from under these sites throughout June-August 1977. Each pellet was placed in a separate manila envelope and taken to the Composition Analysis Laboratory, Range Science Department, Colorado State University, Fort Collins. There the pellets were placed in separate nylon bags, washed free of all unidentifiable organic matter in a clothes washer, and dried in a clothes dryer. Table 1 lists identifiable items found in the pellets, and shows the number of pellets in which each food item was found (frequency of occurrence).

Comparisons with other literature for the pinyon-juniper type are made. Some literature sources gave very inadequate or no description of habitat, only geographic locations of their study areas. In these cases, a habitat map for the United States (Garrison et al. 1977) was used to determine if the major vegetative type in the geographic area described was pinyon-juniper.

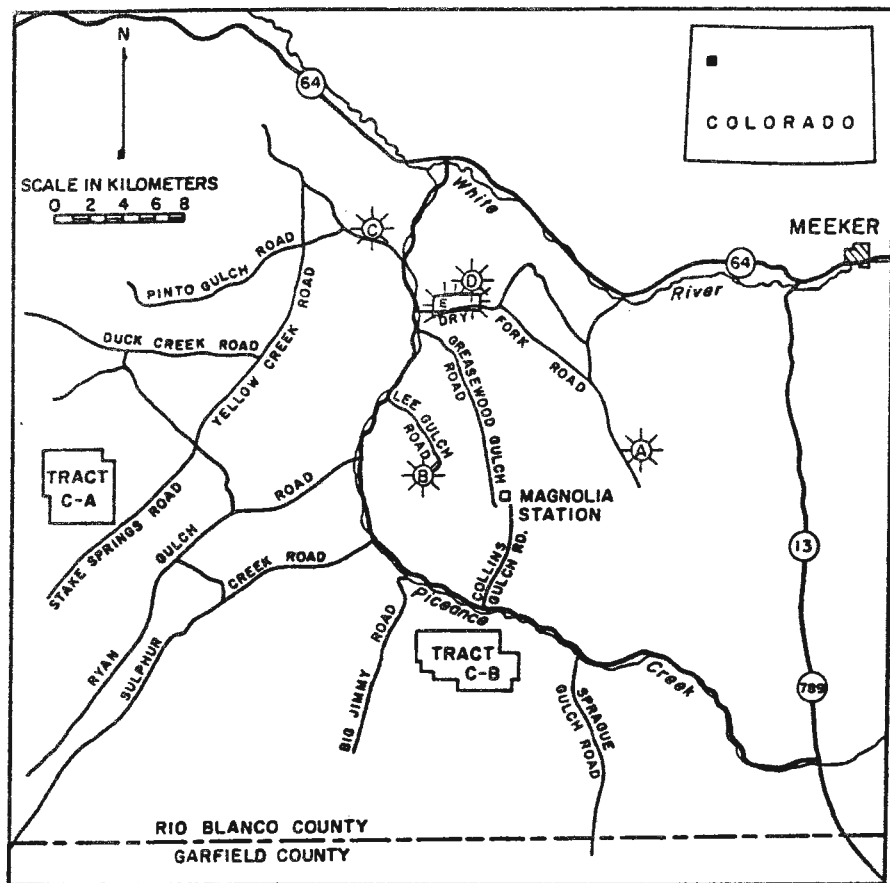


Figure 1. Map of Piceance Creek Basin showing nest and perch sites of raptors used in food habits study, 1977. A = Golden Eagle nest, B = Cooper's Hawk nest, C = Red-tailed Hawk nest, D = Long-eared Owl nest, E = Great Horned Owl perches.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: Mammals were the group of food items most frequently taken by all the raptors species. Evidence of bird predation was found for only two species of raptors. For arthropods and plant materials, it would be difficult if not impossible to determine if the items were eaten by the raptors, were contained in the prey the raptors ate, or stuck to or invaded the cast pellets after regurgitation.

The most frequently taken item in the diet of Golden Eagles was cottontails (Sylvilagus). This agrees in general with other literature for pinyon-juniper types (Hinman n.d., Arnell 1971, Kochert 1972, Mollhagen et al. 1972) where the most frequently taken prey was invariably lagomorphs. Our data disagree with or add to the literature concerning some items, however. Chipmunks (Eutamias) and Ord's kangaroo rats (Dipodomys ordii) were found with considerably higher frequency than in these other studies. Golden-mantled ground squirrels (Spermophilus lateralis), northern pocket gophers (Thomomys talpoides), and voles (Microtus) were found in cast pellets, and have not been previously reported as taken in pinyon-juniper dominated habitat. The voles were found with surprisingly high frequency, indicating that Golden Eagles in this study area probably used the riparian areas rather extensively to hunt in, as these areas represented the majority of suitable habitat for voles in the basin.

Long-eared Owls took cricetid mice more frequently than any other prey item, followed by voles. This agrees with data from Johnson (1954). Maser et al. (1970) found the pocket mouse Perognathus parvus was taken more often than other prey. This difference could be explained by small differences in habitat type that favored the pocket mouse, such as greater amounts of low-growth vegetation. Our study indicated possible predation on a long-tailed weasel, which has not been documented in any known literature for Long-eared Owls (Marti 1976).

Items found in Great Horned Owl pellets agree with other studies (Bond 1940, Brodie and Maser 1967, Maser et al. 1970) in that the major items were voles and cottontails. Smith (1969) found Ord's kangaroo rats to be a major item. No evidence of this prey was found in Great Horned Owl pellets in Piceance Basin, although three Golden Eagle pellets contained remains of this species. The habitat for this prey species is not optimum in the Piceance Basin, according to the habitat description given by Armstrong 1972, and populations may be low in that area because of this.

No food habits data are available from the literature for Cooper's Hawks or Red-tailed Hawks in pinyon-juniper. In the Piceance Basin, chipmunks were the most frequently taken items for Cooper's Hawks and cottontails the most frequently taken by Red-tails.

Table 1.--Number of cast raptor pellets in which food items were found in Piceance Creek Basin, Rio Blanco County, Colorado, during June-August, 1977. Numbers in parentheses indicate percent frequency, rounded to next highest whole number.

Item	Golden Eagle <u>Aquila</u> <u>chrysaetos</u> N=59	Cooper's Hawk <u>Accipiter</u> <u>cooperii</u> N=21	Red-tailed Hawk <u>Buteo</u> <u>jamaicensis</u> N=15	Long-eared Owl <u>Asio otus</u> N=12	Great Horned Owl <u>Bubo virginianus</u> N=9
Mammals					
Cottontail (<u>Sylvilagus</u>)	31(53)	2(10)	8(54)	2(17)	3(34)
Vole (<u>Microtus</u>)	15(26)	6(29)	2(14)	4(34)	5(56)
Chipmunks (<u>Eutamias</u>)	5(9)	13(62)	4(27)		
Golden-mantled ground squirrel (<u>Spermophilus lateralis</u>)	10(17)		5(34)		
Ground squirrel (<u>Spermophilus</u>)	3(6)	1(5)	2(14)		
Northern pocket gopher (<u>Thomomys talpoides</u>)	8(14)			1(9)	
Cricetid mice ¹	1(2)			7(59)	
Desert woodrat (<u>Neotoma lepida</u>)	2(4)				2(23)
Ord's kangaroo rat (<u>Dipodomys ordii</u>)	3(6)				
Long-tailed weasel (<u>Mustela frenata</u>)				1(9)	
Birds					
Mourning Dove (<u>Zenaidura macroura</u>)		1(5)			
Common Flicker (<u>Colaptes auratus</u>)	1(2)				

Magpie (<u>Pica pica</u>)	1(2)			
Passeriformes	9(16)	3(15)		
Falconiformes	5(9)	1(5)		
Unclassified bird	2(4)			
Arthropods				
Beetles (Coleoptera)		2(14)		1(12)
Fly larvae (Diptera)				1(12)
Plant materials				
Pine needles and bark (<u>Pinus edulis</u>)	24(41)	2(10)	1(7)	1(9)
Juniper twig (<u>Juniperus</u>)		2(10)	4(27)	1(9)
Wheat seeds (<u>Triticum</u>)		2(10)		
Goosefoot seeds (<u>Chenopodium</u>)	2(4)			
Basin wildrye seeds (<u>Elymus cinereus</u>)	1(2)			
Saltbush leaf (<u>Atriplex</u>)			1(7)	
Big sagebrush leaves and stems (<u>Artemisia tridentata</u>)	2(4)			1(9)
Unclassified berry	1(2)			
Unclassified grass	4(7)			

¹This includes Peromyscus spp. and Onychomys leucogaster.

We acknowledge the help of Richard Kahn and Ed Hallowed for aiding in locating nests and Mark Johnson for food item identification. We thank Ronald A. Ryder for critical review of the manuscript. This study was funded by contract number 14-16-0008-2111 of the Office of Biological Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, under the administration of the Western Energy and Land Use Team.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1979 ANNUAL MEETING

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held May 26-27 in Colorado Springs, and was a joint meeting with the Colorado Audubon Council. The Aiken Audubon Society were the hosts.

SATURDAY. Dr. Ronald Ryder made the announcements, and introduced the following speakers: Pat Wheat, Boulder ("Hybrid Jays"); Carl Wolf, Lakewood ("A Wildlife Survey of Bear Creek Reservoir"); Chip Salaun, Estes Park ("Brown-capped Rosy Finch Nesting and Fledging"); Curt Orde, Greeley ("Artificial Nesting Structure Acceptance by Burrowing Owls, Pawnee National Grassland"); Hugh Kingery, Denver ("An 8½-Year Study of Breeding Birds at Chatfield Reservoir"); Peggy Abbott and Lynn Grace, Colorado Springs ("A Comparative Winter Bird Population Census for Three Colorado Habitats").

The Annual Business Meeting was held with Elinor Wills presiding. Hugh Kingery announced the Latilong Contributor Awards (see below). After the evening Banquet, the film Ternwatch was shown by Lynn Grace.

SUNDAY. Field trips were conducted to the following areas: South slope of Cheyenne Mountain (led by Charles Campbell); Hanna Ranch (led by Lynn Grace and Peggy Abbott); Colorado Springs "Hot Spots" (led by Nancy Taggart); North of Florissant (led by Roberta Winn). Combined trip-lists yielded 84 species. Some interesting migrants observed were: one Black-and-White Warbler and one Worm-eating Warbler.

LATILONG CONTRIBUTORS HONORED

Charles Chase III and J. R. Guadagno received the first Latilong Contributors' award at the C.F.O. Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs in May.

Chase and Guadagno received the recognition for providing the most new information for the Colorado Latilong Bird Distribution study by a professional and an amateur, respectively. The awards were calculated using a point system for the type of additional data added by the various contributors--5 points for confirmed breeding, 2 points for confirmed overwintering, 1 point for all other new data and for corrections.

Chase obtained most of his data while conducting bird studies in the Arkansas Valley last summer for the Division of Wildlife. Guadagno gathered his data on his 10-acre home property near Ridgway, a property enhanced by a cattail marsh and a beaver pond.

SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1978

by Peter Moulton
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Pleasant and dry weather characterized the 1978 spring bird migration season as the extensive western drought continued to dominate the state's weather patterns. The single major exception to the generally mild conditions was a violent arctic storm front that blanketed much of Colorado with up to two feet of wet snow during the first weekend of May. This storm produced considerable fallouts of migrating birds, especially at Glenwood Springs and along the norther piedmont.

The ever-increasing population of Colorado bird-watchers seized the opportunity that such mild weather presented and spent perhaps a record number of hours in the field. These efforts didn't go unrewarded and, in spite of the uncooperative weather, observers reported some 330 species to this column. While this diversity compares closely with the recent spring average, most bird populations were quite low and readers will notice a rather unpleasant frequency of such descriptive terms as "scarce" and "local" throughout the following account. It is probable that the aforementioned drought was mainly responsible for these reductions.

The season's list included two species, the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Polioptila melanura and Mourning Warbler Oporornis philadelphia, which would be new additions to the state checklist should the ORC view the reports favorably. A double asterisk (**) marks these two species, while a single asterisk designates those other rarities which the Committee will review.

Finally, a negative note. Observers completely ignored three of our state's most interesting breeders: the California Gull, Grace's Warbler and Cassin's Sparrow. Rarities are momentarily exciting, but the breeding birds and resident populations exert much more impact on any region's avifauna than do the occasional vagrants and therefore they deserve more than this casual treatment.

GAVIIFORMES THROUGH CICONIIFORMES: Common Loon - a fair spring flight resulted in the observation of about 26 of this species, 21 on the east slope 4/15-6/2, 3 at Shadow Mountain Res. on 5/4(DAJ), 1 at Basalt (no date noted) and at least 1 at Grand Junction (no further information available)...Eared Grebe--arrived during ice-out on the east slope reservoirs, the first reaching NW Denver on 3/11 (DFO), and persisted until at least 5/23; about 495 individuals noted, 239 of them on the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14 for a seasonal peak. Arrival much later on the west slope: 4/21 at Shadow Mountain and Granby Reservoirs, but the

species was uncommonly numerous in that area(DAJ); last reported on the west slope were 9 on the Durango SBC 5/20...Western Grebe- notable mainly for its abundance in the Grand Lake area (some 1800-2000 present there from 4/15 on-DAJ) and its scarcity at Gunnison, where Cook observed only 2 all season compared to 53 last spring...Pied-billed Grebe- arrival on the east slope 3/5 in Jefferson County, west slope 3/19 at BPNWR; numbers low at Ft. Collins and very low at Grand Lake where only 1 was seen all spring (usual counts 5-6/week- DAJ)...White Pelican- earliest were 12 at Ft. Collins on 4/3 and good numbers remained in that area through the season(MJ); 12 were at Hart's Basin on 4/20(TC) for an unusual west slope record...Green Heron- rather scarce this spring with only 7 individuals reported, all from the eastern plains 5/12-25...*Little Blue Heron- 1 immature was in NC Colorado on 4/29(DFO), about the 18th state record...Cattle Egret- continues its range expansion into Colorado and observers are now finding it statewide in suitable lowland areas; east slope reports listed about 25 birds 4/25-5/30, high count 9 at Pueblo West on 4/25(VT), and west slope birders noted 5 (possibly 7) 4/16-5/23 at BPNWR, Grand Junction, Gunnison and Hart's Basin...Great Egret- disappointingly few this spring with only 2 individuals reported, 1 at Antero Res. during the first week of April(BM) and 1 at Fossil Creek Res. on 5/19(AM,m.ob.)...*Louisiana Heron- a very rare Louisiana graced the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14 and remained through the next day, allowing many observers ample opportunity to study it closely(AAS); about the 9th state record...Yellow-crowned Night Heron- Andrews observed 1 at Rocky Ford on 5/25 for the season's only report of this rather rare heron...Least Bittern- continuing its reputation for annual, or nearly annual, occurrence at Sawhill Ponds, 1 was there on 6/1(SL,KR,MR)...American Bittern- only about 14 individuals noted, all from 4/29 on, and nearly all at Boulder and Ft. Collins; whether this dismal showing indicates that bitterns have suffered something of a decline or that birders aren't beating the cattails as persistently as usual is unknown.

ANSERIFORMES: Whistling Swan- 1 was at Ft. Collins on 5/3(MJ) for the only report...*Trumpeter Swan- the pair that wintered at Grand Lake (noted in the Winter Report) remained until 3/9(DAJ)...Snow Goose- large numbers occurred at Two Buttes Res. during the early spring: 300 on 3/5(DR, JR) and 10000, including 2 Blue Geese, on 3/13(LKM); elsewhere, observers reported only about 350 birds, 300 in one flock at Jackson Res. on 3/8(DR, JR). Latest was 1 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...Ross' Goose- 2 immatures found this spring, 1 at Fossil Creek Res. on 3/4(MJ) and 1 at Red Lion on 4/24(HH)...Black Duck- this rare duck occurred in Colorado once this season, 1 at Crook on 5/26(WL)...Blue-Winged Teal- first arrival on the east slope was 1 at Sawhill Ponds on 3/22(BAS), west slope 4/16 at Ridgway

(JRG)...Northern Shoveler- the main migrating wave passed over the east slope during the third week of March, and the last reported was at Antero Res. on 5/23(JP); occurred on the west slope 4/21-5/20, but no peak evident...Wood Duck-reports listed about 23 individuals on the east slope 3/24-5/9, all from the high plains adjacent to the foothills; 2 at Ridgway on 4/21(JRG) was an unusual west slope report...Ring-necked Duck- the main spring flight traversed the east slope during the third week of March and the latest were 6 at Cub Lake (RMNP) on 5/29 (BG,VG); west slope observers submitted only three reports: 2 at Gunnison on 5/7 (KC), 6 on Cottonwood Pass on 5/29(JoM) and an undetailed sighting at Grand Junction...Greater Scaup- 2 were at Kendrick Res. 3/17-18(JohC,JoyC), 1 was at McCall Lake on 4/2(DFO) and 1 was at MHDC on 5/29(WL,RS)...Common Goldeneye- the wintering population began to decline steadily in early March, and the species last occurred on the west slope 4/10 at Shadow Mountain Res. and on the east 5/13 at Boulder...Barow's Goldeneye- 9 individuals noted, all in the Estes Park area; latest were 6 at Mary's Lake on 4/1(SCK)...Oldsquaw- a most interesting spring record involved 4 individuals that stayed at the Fruita Sewage Lagoon from 4/3 until at least 5/3(DG, m.ob.); almost certainly this represents a new extreme departure date...Red-breasted Merganser- a rather large east slope population numbered about 85-90 birds, with a minor peak during the last week of March and the first week of April; latest were 1 on the Denver SBC 5/13 and 2 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14.

FALCONIFORMES: Turkey Vulture- earliest on the east slope was 1 at Monument on 3/1(JiW,RW), but the main flight didn't arrive until the middle two weeks of April; west slope observations were much later: arrival 4/2 at BPNWR (WPG) and Eagle(JoM), and peak during the last week of May. Populations were high in Delta County(TC). But definitely subnormal at Ft. Collins(MJ)...Mississippi Kite-the Pueblo SBC listed 1 5/12-14 and Andrews found 8, including at least one nesting pair, at the Lamar City Park on 5/27...Goshawk-somewhat hard to find this season with reports of about 17 birds, 15 of them from mountain areas; latest on the plains was 1 at Wellington SWA on 5/1(LR)...Sharp-shinned Hawk- an excellent spring flight produced reports of about 95 birds on the east slope and 20 in the west; main wave poorly defined, but came in about mid-April on the east slope and about two weeks later on the west...Cooper's Hawk- staged a strong flight on the east slope and observers noted about 47 individuals 3/7-5/14, peak during the last two weeks of April; fared considerably worse on the west slope, where the reports listed only 4 birds 3/4-4/3...Red-tailed Hawk- 4 of the Harlan's form noted 3/4-4/2, all in the Denver-Boulder area...*Red-shouldered Hawk- 1 immature was at Bonny Res. on 4/26(HH)...Broad-winged Hawk 5 individuals seen 4/16-5/13,

all at Boulder, Denver and Ft. Collins...Swainson's Hawk- seems to have staged a fairly poor flight in most areas; arrived east slope 3/27 at Ft. Collins(FCAS), west slope 4/24 at Gunnison(KC). Numbers were especially low at Ft. Collins(MJ), Boulder (where the county wildlife inventory listed none during May- BAS) and on the entire west slope, where reporters noted only 6 birds all spring...Rough-legged Hawk- the winter population began to depart in late February and most were gone by mid-April; a very late bird appeared on the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14...Bald Eagle- after a sharp decline at the end of March a few lingered well into May; last on the east slope was 1 at Antero Res. on 5/19(JP) and latest in the west was 1 immature at Blue Mesa Res. on 5/27(KC,m.ob.)...Marsh Hawk- numbers were decidedly low at Gunnison, with only 4 seen there all season(KC)...Osprey- a very strong spring flight produced reports of about 33 birds from 3/26 on, with a peak during the last two weeks of April; last on the east slope were 2 on the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14 and 1 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14. Nested at Shadow Mountain and Granby Reservoirs, four active nests producing 12 eggs(DAJ)...Peregrine Falcon- amazingly, observations of this rare falcon were too numerous to itemize! East slope birders located 6 individuals 3/1-5/11, all in the foothills and on the adjacent high plains; fewer on the west slope, but 2 were on Cochetopa Pass on 5/23(KC)...Merlin- after a strong fall-winter showing, the Merlins virtually evaporated in late winter and reporters noted only 10 birds, 9 on the east slope 3/5-5/29 and 1 at Grand Lake on 4/11(DAJ).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH GRUIFORMES: White-tailed Ptarmigan- CDOW estimated that the population was above average on Mt. Evans, but 25-30% below normal in RMNP(CB). Sage Grouse- populations seem to be at all-time high levels in all areas, according to CDOW estimates(CB)...Gambel's Quail- a dead bird was picked up in Deer Creek Canyon on 3/28(JM), certainly a long way from home for this sedentary (though often transplanted) species...Whooping Crane- a total of 5 individuals passed through the MVNWR 3/11-5/13; 4 had gone through by 4/13, but a latecomer arrived on 4/14 and remained until 5/13(MTN)...Sandhill Crane- 7000 were on the MVNWR on 3/1 and the population increased to about 15000 on 3/10; the majority departed the refuge during the last week of March, but a few lingered until 5/11(MTN). Away from the San Luis Valley sightings were few: 43 birds on the east slope 3/12-5/20, 156 on the west 3/18-5/12...Sora- arrived on 4/10 at Ridgway(JRG) and the west slope population increased to impressive levels, especially at Gunnison where Cook estimated at least 100 pairs in residence.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Semipalmated Plover- observers found good numbers on the east slope: about 248 individuals 4/22-5/14, with peaks of 89 4/29-30 and 76 5/12-14 (including 74 on the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14- AAS); scarce

and local on the west slope, occurring only at Gunnison (9 total at Blue Mesa Res. 4/30-5/7- KC) and Silt (one undetailed observation)...Snowy Plover- away from the usual sites in the Arkansas River valley, 1 was at Union Res. on 4/20(MH) and 1 was at Severance on 5/21(CFO)...Ruddy Turnstone- 1 was at Red Lion on 5/29 (RA) for the only report...Whimbrel- east slope reports listed 10 birds 4/25-5/13; on the west slope, noted only at Grand Junction (no further information available)...Upland Sandpiper- the observation of 1 on South Table Mountain, near Golden, on 4/12(TS) was notable both for unusual location and earliness; other observations at more usual sites were 2 at the Tamarack Ranch on 5/1(JohC,JoyC) and 1 at Red Lion on 5/29 (RA)...Solitary Sandpiper- east slope reports listed about 25 birds 4/26-5/14, 12 of them on the various SBC's 5/12-14; 1 at McCoy on 5/5(CE,MKE) was the single west slope observation...Willet- about 180 on the east slope 4/18-5/23, peak of about 100 4/25-30; scarcer on the west slope, about 15 birds in all 4/23-5/8, peak 10 at Glenwood Springs 5/5-8 (JoM)...Pectoral Sandpiper- about 21 reported, all on the east slope 3/25-5/13, peak 15 at Ft. Collins on 4/25(MJ)...White-rumped Sandpiper- 6 were at Black Hollow Res. on 4/14(BT,ST), predating the previous early extreme date by almost a full month; the Pueblo SBC listed 1 5/12-14, 40 were at Red Lion on 5/27 and 12 were still there the next day(WL)...Baird's Sandpiper- staged an exceptionally poor flight and only about 24 noted 3/18-5/28, all on the east slope...Dunlin- 4 (one flock) were at Windsor 4/21-5/10(MJ) and 1 was at Cheraw on 5/1(HH)...Stilt Sandpiper- east slope only: about 28 birds 4/17-5/27, peak 12 at Red Lion on 5/27(WL)...Semipalmated Sandpiper- occurring only on the east slope, about 44 individuals 4/22-5/20 with a peak of 20 at CCRA on 5/6(DFO)...Sanderling-perhaps somewhat more numerous than usual, though present on the east slope only: about 51 individuals 4/23-5/21, with a sharply defined peak 5/12-14 (44 seen, including 35 on the Pueblo SBC)...Black-necked Stilt- 9 total were in the Pueblo area 4/30-5/14, 3 were at Fossil Creek Res. 5/10-18 and the Longmont SBC listed 2 on 5/13...Northern Phalarope- east slope observers reported about 91 birds 5/10-28, 80 of them 5/12-14; on the west slope, occurred only at BPNWR, an unspecified number on 5/9(WPG)...Glaucous Gull - a rather large number of this species occurred on the east slope during the first half of the season, about 34 individuals in all 3/1-4/15; the majority were at Ft. Collins, 21 noted 3/4-4/7(MJ,RR), with daily counts up to 8 birds(MJ); elsewhere, occurred at Union and Valmont Reservoirs, and the latest was 1 at Union on 4/15 (very faded first-winter plumage-PM)...Herring Gull- the wintering population declined sharply at the end of March and the last seen were 4 on the Longmont SBC 5/13; reports of this species in late April and throughout May at Antero Res. may refer to the California Gull, as the observer did not list that species, a known breeder at that reservoir...*Thayer's Gull- 1 immature was at CCRA 3/1-24

(JR), the numerous reports evidently referring to a single bird; 1 in first-winter plumage was at Union Res. on 3/19 (MH,BK,PM) and 3 in the same plumage were there on 4/2(DFO). Apparently, this species regularly winters on the eastern slope of Colorado in small numbers, becoming slightly more numerous during the early spring, possibly because observers become more numerous at about the same time. It is somewhat perplexing that west slope records are virtually non-existent, in view of the species' westerly distribution... California Gull- arrived in the state 3/19 at CCRA; unfortunately, we received no information concerning arrival and population status at the three known nesting locations at Antero, Eleven Mile and Riverside Reservoirs... Bonaparte's Gull- a fairly strong spring flight on the east slope resulted in the observation of about 84 individuals 4/8-5/14, 69 of them 4/23-30... *Black-legged Kittiwake- rarest gull of the season was 1 of this species at Totton Res. on 3/21 (GE,RE)... Common Tern- about 6 birds on the east slope 4/29-5/27, 4 of them after mid-May... *Caspian Tern- reports of single birds at CCRA on 5/22(RA,WL) and 5/29(FP) likely refer to only one individual; this seems to constitute approximately the 4th state record... Black Tern- arrived on the east slope on 5/12 and the population gradually increased until the end of May; uncommon on the west slope: 8 birds (5/20-31).

CUCULIFORMES THROUGH PICIFORMES: Yellow-billed Cuckoo- 4 noted on the east slope 5/11-20, 4 on the plains adjacent to the foothills and 1 at Bonny Res.; recorded at Grand Junction on the west slope, but without further data ... Roadrunner- extralimital observations were 1 at Golden on 5/10(TS) and 1 at Columbine Hills on 5/27(SR)... Screech Owl- six east slope reports totalled about 14 birds, including a family group of 6 on the C.U. campus 5/20-21 (SL,m.ob.)... Flammulated Owl- Cook found a territorial pair on Cochetopa Pass 5/16 and 3 individuals in the same area on 5/23; he notes that he made the observations between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM in aspen/mixed-conifer associations and during periods of heavy moth activity... Burrowing Owl- arrived on the east slope 3/25 and reached usual breeding populations by mid-April... Long-eared Owl- seven east slope reports listed about 19 individuals, including 2 fledged young at CCRA on 5/28(DW,JW); four west slope reports included 2 road-kills at Gunnison... Short-eared Owl- east slope only: six reports totalling about 36 individuals, 20 at Ft. Collins 3/1-15(SD,RR); latest was 1 at Pritchett on 5/25(RA)... Saw-whet Owl- Cook found single individuals on Cochetopa Pass 5/16 and 5/23 for the only report... Common Poor-will- reported only from the east slope, about 18 individuals 4/26 on; on the plains, 1 was at Bonny res. on 4/26(HH), 1 was there on 5/13(PG,WL,PM,BW) and 1 was on the PNG on 5/21 (on the ground in a short-grass pasture-CFO)

...Common Nighthawk-arrived early on the east slope, 5/3 at Ft. Collins(MJ), but was scarce, the reports listing only 17 individuals; came in later on the west slope, 5/30 at Gunnison, but was common thereafter, at least in that area (KC)...Chimney Swift- east slope only, from 4/29 on; most numerous at Boulder, where some 79 of the 91 listed individuals were noted...Black-chinned Hummingbird- about 16 individuals on the west slope from 5/3 on, with a minor peak the second weekend of May; east slope reports were 1 at Pueblo on 4/21(JoW) and 1 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...Broad-tailed Hummingbird- arrived on the east slope 4/16 at Beulah and reached the usual breeding levels by mid-May; earliest on the west slope was at Gunnison on 4/18, but the species was most common at Durango, as evidenced by the SBC count of 48 on 5/2...Calliope Hummingbird- an unusual spring observation was 1 on the Colorado Springs SBC 5/14...Red-headed Woodpecker- arrived on the east slope during the second weekend of May; number very low and only about 17 were reported...Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- arrived on the east slope 3/19 at Beulah and peaked 5/12-14, including 11 on the Estes Park SBC 5/13; less numerous on the west slope, five reports of 10 individuals from 4/15 on...Williamson's Sapsucker- arrived on the east slope 3/24, but 16 of the 20 reported individuals occurred 5/12 on; local on the west slope, occurring only at Ridgway, Grand Lake and Grand Junction from 3/28 on...Hairy Woodpecker- populations low at Boulder, Ft. Collins, Westcreek and evidently throughout the west slope...Ladder-backed Woodpecker- 1 was at Two Buttes Res. on 3/5(DR,JR), a vagrant was at MHDC on 4/20(RAR) and the Pueblo SBC listed 1 5/12-14...Northern Three-toed Woodpecker- nine reports listed 20 individuals, all on the east slope; most were in Boulder County, seven reports totalling 15 birds there.

TYRANNIDAE THROUGH CORVIDAE: Eastern Kingbird- a very early arrival was 1 at Denver on 3/27(JS), about a month earlier than the previous extreme, but the bulk of the flight didn't reach the plains until mid-May; west slope arrival was 40 at Glenwood Springs on 5/27(JoM) and thereafter the birds were local, occurring elsewhere only at Grand Junction and Gunnison...Western Kingbird- arrived on the east slope 4/23 at Springfield(CFO) and peaked by mid-May, outnumbering Easterns by 2:1; much less numerous on the west slope, only about 10 individuals from April on (arrival not noted)...Cassin's Kingbird- the two west slope reports listed an unnoted number at Glenwood Springs 5/5-8(Tic) and 3 on the Durango SBC 5/20; all east slope reports were from Colorado Springs and Pueblo, about 12 individuals 5/12-20, including 9 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...Eastern Phoebe- six reports listed 7 birds in the NE quarter of the state 4/13-5/28; the only report for the remainder of Colorado was 2 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...*Black Phoebe- this rare flycatcher

occurred twice at Pueblo this spring: 1 seen 4/2(EB,CG, DGr,CK) and 1 noted on the SBC 5/12-14...Least Flycatcher- 1 was at Bonny Res. on 5/13(WL); this species seems to be almost annual at Bonny, though in very small numbers...*Eastern Wood Pewee- 1 was identified at Waterton on 5/11 (HH) for the season's single report of this rare bird...Swallows- this season's migration began somewhat early, arrivals as follows: Violet-green 3/26 at Chatfield Res., Tree 3/18 at Waterton, Bank 4/16 at BPNWR and Pueblo, Rough-winged and Barn during the third week of March at Grand Lake. Numbers were normal to well above average for all species in all areas, excepting only a poor flight of Tree Swallows at Eagle(JoM)...Purple Martin- 1 female at Ridgway on 4/2(JRG) was the only report...Blue Jay- listed at Grand Junction, unfortunately with no further information. Some details would certainly be desirable for additional documentation of this species' westward advance in Colorado...White-necked Raven- 5 were at Campo on 3/5(DR,JR) and the Colorado Springs SBC counted 1 on 5/14...Clark's Nutcracker- 5 at Chatfield Res. on 5/23(HK) were very late on the plains; numbers evidently about normal in the usual haunts, though decidedly low at McCoy(CE,MKE).

PARIDAE THROUGH LANIIDAE: Bushtit- ten reports totalled about 42 individuals with a high count of 14 at Ridgway on 3/4(JRG); the observation of 2 at Chasteen's Grove on 5/16(VG,PL,AM) adds some fuel to the suspicion that Bushtits may be breeding in that area...Dipper- late upslope migrants didn't reach Eldora until 4/14(GS) and Silver Plume until 5/18(EC,ChG)...Bewick's Wren- the three east slope reports include: 2 at Pueblo on 3/1(JY), 2 at Two Buttes Res. on 3/5(JR) and 12 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...Long-billed Marsh Wren- simultaneously departed all east slope locations 5/12-14; 1 on the west side of RMNP on 6/1 was a new addition to the park's official checklist(fide DAJ)...Canyon Wren- 1 was at Morrow Point Res. on 5/24 for what seems to be the first Gunnison County record(KC)...Gray Catbird- arrived on the east slope 5/12-14 (several locations) and numbers were generally low, about 31 birds in all; on the west slope, 1 was at Morrow Point Res. 5/10-12, where the species seems rather rare(KC)...Brown Thrasher- late and scarce on the east slope, only about 29 individuals from 4/29 on; Grand Junction observers closely studied 1 bird on 5/26(m.o.b.)...Curve-billed Thrasher- Andrews discovered a nest with 4 eggs in Baca County on 5/26 for a rare breeding record...Wood Thrush- 1 was in Jefferson County on 5/20(DW,JW) for the only report of this rather rare bird...Swainson's Thrush-easily the state's commonest Catharus thrush, though reported only from the east slope: about 78 birds 5/11-28...*Gray-cheeked Thrush- the two reports of this rare, but apparently regular, migrant listed 1 at Barr Lake on 5/13(DFO) and 1 at Bonny Res. 5/13-14(PG,WL,PM,BW)...Veery- about 9 individuals occurred on the east slope

4/19-4/20 and the usual few breeding pairs were present in the Gunnison area (KC)...Eastern Bluebird- 3 were at Bonny Res. on 3/25(MJ) and a pair was at Beecher Island on 4/25 (HH)...Western Bluebird- 2 at Prewitt Res. on 3/27(SB,WWB) were quite far out onto the plains...Black-tailed Gnatcatcher- 1-2 were at Ridgway 5/1-6, evidently the fourth consecutive year of occurrence there(JRG). Current ORC criteria prevent the addition of a species to the state checklist on the basis of a single-observer sight report, so this record must remain hypothetical until we have a specimen, recognizable photograph or confirming observer (two-observer sight reports are acceptable- the ORC has to draw the line somewhere); however, the reporter described the species completely and well by means of a sight record document...Bohemian Waxwing- as the winter of 1977-78 was not a flight season, the report of 40 at Evergreen on 3/25 (DFO) is interesting...Northern Shrike- east slope reports listed about 24 individuals, 19 in March, and the last were 1 each on the Longmont and Colorado Springs SBC's, 5/13 and 5/14 respectively; west slope observers noted only 3 individuals, the latest at Ridgway on 4/6(JRG)...Loggerhead Shrike- arrived 3/5 at Boulder and Gunnison; very hard to find on the west slope (only two reports), but numbers about normal in the east.

VIREONIDAE THROUGH PARULIDAE: Bell's Vireo- rather unusual so far west was 1 at Ft. Collins on 5/13(MJ); in more typical locations, 1 was at Bonny Res. on 5/14(PG,PM, BW) and 6 were at the Tamarack Ranch on 5/27(WL)...Warbling Vireo-good numbers were on the east slope, about 85 birds 5/11-31; major concentration was in Boulder County: 44 individuals 5/19-31. The single west slope report was 5 on the Durango SBC 5/20...Black-and-white Warbler- east slope only: about 10 birds 4/26-5/30, including 3 on the Pueblo SBC 5/12-14...Golden-winged Warbler- 1 female was on the C.U. campus on 5/3(RA) for a rather unusual report...Blue-winged Warbler- 1 was at Chasteen's Grove on 5/20(HH, m.ob.); this rare species is beginning to appear almost annually during the spring season...Tennessee Warbler- a rather weak spring flight produced reports of 7 individuals 5/7-31, all on the eastern plains...Nashville Warbler- east slope reports totalled 8 Nashvilles 5/14-31, 6 on the Colorado SBC 5/14; in the west, only one report: 1 (possibly 2) at McCoy on 5/18(CE,MKE)...Virginia's Warbler- notably scarce on the west slope, observers reporting only 3 individuals 4/30-5/19...Northern Parula- east slope only: 7 birds 4/22-5/25...Magnolia Warbler- the Longmont SBC counted 3 on 5/13 and 1 was at Lykins Gulch on 5/29(banded-CW)...Hermit Warbler- one of the seasons' outstanding rarities was a pair of Hermits at Red Rocks Park 5/7-9(m.ob., phot- HH); approximately the 3rd state record...Blackburnian Warbler- 1 male was at Crow Valley Park 5/18-19(BB,ABA) and 1 was at Boulder on 5/27(DBB)...Yellow-throated Warbler- 1 at Boulder on 4/3(JC,BW, m.ob., phot- PM) was not only rare

but amazingly early; another was in the Bear Creek greenbelt on 5/11(ME); about the 10th and 11th state records...Bay-breasted Warbler-continuing the recent proliferation of observations in the state, about 5 were noted 5/13-30, all on the high plains adjacent to the foothills...Pine Warbler- a rare spring observation was 1 female at Bonny Res. on 5/14(PG,PM,BW)...Palm Warbler- the Denver SBC listed 1 on 5/13(DFO) and 2 were at Bonny Res. the same day (PG,WL,PM,BW)...Ovenbird- observers found 6 birds 5/13-20, all on the NE plains. **Mourning Warbler- the Pueblo SBC listed 1 5/12-14 and 1 was reported from Barr Lake on 5/20 (WL,BP,IP); if the ORC accepts these reports they will constitute the state's 1st and 2nd records...American Redstart- east slope only: 16 birds 5/7-21, 8 of them 5/12-14.

ICTERIDAE THROUGH THRAUPIDAE: Bobolink arrived 5/11 on the east slope at Chatfield Res.(BP,IP) and the usual sparse population reached Boulder County by late May; west slope observers found 1 at Eagle on 5/27(JoM) and 6 at Gunnison on 6/8, with breeding suspected at the latter location(KC)...Eastern Meadowlark- 2 at Red Lion on 5/28 constitute this springs' documentation of Colorado's only known population of this species...Yellow-headed Blackbird- scarce on the west slope: seven reports of only 47 individuals from 3/26 on...Orchard Oriole- arrived early, 4/29 at Barr Lake(RA), but the population was small (e.g. at Bonny Res., where numbers were only about one-third of normal-PM) ...Rusty Blackbird- 1 was in Boulder County on 3/18(FH) for the only report...Common Grackle- a note-worthy observation was 5 on the Durango SBC 5/20; this species is pretty rare in that area...Western Tanager-staged a strong spring flight on the east slope from 5/10 on: some 180 birds in all, 100 of them 5/12-14; scarce and local on the west slope, arriving 5/17 at McCoy and totalling about 36 individuals, 26 of them on the Durango SBC 5/20...Scarlet Tanager- after last year's strong showing (at least 8 birds), things returned to normal this season: 1 was on the Pueblo SBC list 5/12-14, 1 at Windsor on 5/21(CR,ScR) and 1 was at Boulder on 5/27(TVZ)...Summer Tanager- the spring's only Summer was in a definitely strange location: 1 subadult male at Eagle on 5/27(JoM); the observer included a most convincing description with this rare record.

FRINGILLIDAE: Cardinal- the four east slope reports included: 1 at Ft. Morgan on 4/5(JCR), 1 in SE Denver on 4/19(Audubon class), 1 at Rocky Ford 5/12-14 (listed on Pueblo SBC) and 1 in Denver on 5/21(NH)...Rose-breasted Grosbeak- after 1977's strong flight (about 125 birds), the state's observers listed a more typical 28 individuals 5/12-6/5, 24 on the east slope, 1 male at Ridgway 5/20-23(TW), a pair at Gunnison for two weeks in May(KC) and 1 at Silver Plume on 6/5(EC,ChG)... Black-headed Grosbeak- 3

males at Glenwood Springs on 3/28(RP) were exceptionally early...Indigo X Lazuli Bunting- 1 intergrade was at Waterton on 5/13(DFO) and the Longmont SBC noted 2 the same day...Dick Cissel-the Colorado Springs SBC recorded 1 on 5/14 and 4 were at Sedgwick on 5/29(RA)...Purple Finch-Sylvia Brockner banded 1 at Evergreen on 4/6 for the only report...Lesser Goldfinch-arrived on the east slope 5/4(BeW) and was scarce on that side of the divide thereafter, about 25 individuals in all; on the west slope, small numbers were at Durango, Grand Junction and Gunnison (arrival not noted)...Red Crossbill- hard to find anywhere this spring: eleven reports of about 47 birds...Lark Bunting- west slope reports were 1 at Ridgway on 5/10(JRG) and 1 at Grand Lake on 5/28 (DAJ)...Savannah Sparrow- arrived on the east slope 4/15 at Denver; about 138 individuals altogether, 32 of them on the Puelbo SBC 5/12-14; local on the west slope: three reports from 4/8 on at Eagle, Gunnison and Ridgway...Grasshopper Sparrow 1 was at the Tamarack Ranch on 5/1(JohC,JoyC) and the Colorado Springs SBC listed 10 on 5/14...Baird's Sparrow- 1 was along the Arkansas River on 4/26(JCL), 1 at CCRA on 5/7(HH), 3 on the Longmont SBC 5/13 and 1 at Lower Latham Res. on 5/20(JohC, JoyC); reports from Glenwood Springs 5/5-8 and Antero Res. 5/19-20 may refer to the Savannah Sparrow (not noted by either observer), some examples of which can certainly approach Baird's in point of plumage brilliance...Cassin's Sparrow- unaccountably scarce this spring, the only report being 3 SE of Campo 4/15-23 (JCL,CFO); evidently, few birders visited SE Colorado this season and this accounts for the apparently weak showing by this normally common and (in spring) conspicuous species...Dark-eyed Junco- east slope departures: White-winged 3/25 from Evergreen(DFO), Slate-colored 5/13 from Boulder County (BAS) and Oregon 5/29 from Boulder(BAS); west slope departures: Slate-colored 4/9 from Ridgway(JRG) and Oregon 5/5-8 from Glenwood Springs(TiC)...Tree Sparrow- late observations were 3 on the Longmont SBC 5/13, 1 on the Durango SBC 5/20 and 1 at Silver Plume in the third week of in the May(EC,ChG)...Clay-colored Sparrow- east slope only, arrival 2 at Bonny Res. on 4/26(HH); peak the second weekend of May: about 31 individuals, 12 on the Longmont SBC 5/13 and 11 on the Colorado Springs SBC the next day...Brewer's Sparrow- arrived early on the east slope: 1 at Ft. Morgan on 4/14 (JCR), but generally hard to find on that side of the divide and the peak was only 25 individuals 5/12-14; much later on the west slope, arriving 5/20 at Durango (1 on the SBC) and 5/28 at Piceance Creek(JoM)...Field Sparrow-1 was at Bonny Res. on 5/13(WL) and 3 were on the PNG on 5/18(BB)...Harris' Sparrow- last in the state was 1 at Loveland on 5/19(HH)...*Golden-crowned Sparrow- 2 were at Colorado Springs 5/12-14, closely observed and counted on the SBC...White-throated Sparrow- 6 were at Rocky Ford on 4/23 (CG,DGr), 1 was on the Puelbo SBC list 5/12-14 and the Colorado Springs SBC noted 2 on 5/14...Fox Sparrow- 1 was at

John Martin Dam on 4/23(DGr) and 1 was in Bear Creek Park on 5/20; on the west slope, 1 was at Ridgway on 18 occasions 3/21-4/11(JRG) for the single report...Lincoln's Sparrow- notable for complete absence at Gunnison, a most unusual state of affairs(KC)...Swamp Sparrow- the Boulder SBC listed 1 on 5/13 for the only report...McCown's Longspur- arrived 4/7 at Sterling(TSh); we received few reports from the PNG, but the indication is that it was quite scarce there this season...Chestnut-collared Longspur- arrival was 4/7 at Sterling(TSh); apparently very scarce this spring...Snow Bunting- last of the winter's incredible invasion was a single bird at Red Lion on 3/12.

INITIALED OBSERVERS: Robert Andrews(RA), Ed Blatnik (EB), D. Bruce Bosley(DBB), Clait Braun(CB), Sylvia Brockner(SB), Winston W. Brockner(WWB), Bob Buttery(BB), Elaine Calzolari(EC), Theo Colburn(TC), Jeanne Conry(JC), Kevin Cook(KC), John Cooper (JohC), Joyce Cooper(JoyC), Tim Cowen (TiC), Steve Denton(SD), Gene Elliott(GE), Margaret Elliott (ME), Robbie Elliott(RE), Clark Ewing(CE), Mrs. Kenneth Ewing(MKE), David Galinat(DG), Peter Gent(PG), Bill Gilbert (BG), Vivian Gilbert(VG), Warner P. Gorenzel(WPG), Carolyn Griffiths(CG), Dave Griffiths(DGr), Charles Groesbeek(ChG), J.R. Guadagno(JRG), Freeman Hall(FH), Nancy Hill(NH), Mark Holmgren (MH), Harolt Holt(HH), Mark Janos (MJ), David A. Jasper(DAJ), Hugh Kingery(HK), Steven C. Kingswood(SCK), Barry Knapp(BK), Chris Knight(CK), Steve Larson(SL), Jerry C. Ligon(JCL), Patty Lown(PL), William Lybarger(WL), Larry K. Malone(LKM), Blaine Marshman(BM), Jan McGrew(JM), Ann Means(AM), Cecil Means(CM), John Merchant (JoM), Peter Moulton(PM), Melvin T. Nail(MTN), Ruth Parkinson(RP), Floyd Pendell(FP), Judy Porrata(JP), Bill Prather(BP), Inez Prather (IP), Dorothy Reddall(DR), Jack Reddall(JR), Lance Reese(LR), Sara Reynolds(SR), J.C. Rigli(JCR), Chris Roederer(CR), Scott Roederer (ScR), Ken Rosen(KR), Marlene Rosen(MR), R.A. Rozinski(RAR), Ron Ryder(RR), Tom Scott(TS), Tom Shane(TSh), Gail Shickley(GS), Robert Spencer(RS), Judd Sundine(JS), Jo Trainor(JR), Van Truan (VT), Babette Tully (BT), Steve Tully(ST), Tom Van Zandt(TVZ), Doug Ward(DW), Judy Ward(JW), Jim Watts(JiW), Rosie Watts(RW), Bruce Webb (BW), Bernice Weldon(BEW), Tom Whelan(TW), Craig Williams (CW), Joan Wolther(JoW), John Yeager(JY).

ORGANIZATIONS: Aiken Audubon Society (Colorado Springs) (AAS), American Birding Association field trip (Kenn Kaufman, leader) (ABA), Boulder Audubon Society(BAS), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), Colorado Field Ornithologists(CFO), Colorado Field Ornithologists' Official Records Committee(ORC), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Ft. Collins Audubon Society(FCAS).

ABBREVIATED LOCATIONS: Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge(BPNWR), Cherry Creek Recreational Area(CCRA), Mile High Duck Club(MHDC), Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge(MVNWR), Pawnee National Grassland(PNG), Rocky Mountain National Park(RMNP).

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS: Multiple observations(m.ob.), Spring Bird Count(SBC), ORC will review(*), Species potentially new to state checklist(**).

CORRECTIONS

1. Robert Andrews, Chairman of the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee, reports the following corrections to the ORC Report-1976 and 1977, which appeared in the C.F.O. Journal 12:4, pp. 4-21:

p. 11-Observers for the Jaeger sp. (22-76-113) were MM, JS;

p. 14-Cape May Warbler (52-76-43) should be 52-76-42;

p. 17-The account for the Short-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus griseus) should read as follows:

Nine (19-77-68) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co. 1 Sep 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 is a high, musical 3-note call. The Stilt Sandpiper does have a low, 3-note call, and the Long-billed Dowitcher may give its low note several in sequence on occasion.

p. 18-19-Boreal Owl (DMNH # 36064) was not collected by Allegra Collister, but rather found dead in the snow by Emma Potts.

2. In the report of Bay-breasted Warblers in Rocky Mountain National Park (13:1, p. 21) the scientific name should be Dendroica castanea, not D. fusca.

3. Reporter David Jasper informs us that contrary to the impression left by the Winter 1978 Seasonal Report (13:1, p. 12), most of the 370 Ravens he saw were not feeding on Salmon, but were in flight.

NESTING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1978

by Paul R. Julian
1269 Chinook Way
Boulder, Colorado 80303

The nesting season 1978 produced some observations of note. Some of the material cited below affects the status of species in the Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study. An * following the report indicates a change in the status for that species in the appropriate Latilong (mark your copies!). The most productive reporter in terms of new finds was Charles Chase, who spent his summer surveying for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. He found some astonishing things - such as 40 Snowy Plover nests, two Least Terns nests (new for the state) and no (!) White-necked Raven nests. The Cattle Egret seems now an established nester in Colorado with confirmed nests at Riverside Res. and in the San Luis Valley. One observer from the Gunnison area says nine Flammulated Owls, with at least one nest, were found in a single area, and wonders if the species is not more common than believed. The Western Kingbird now rates a B for all Latilongs in the State--not a surprise, perhaps, but indicative of the potential of the state's birders in documenting species distribution. Among the Passerines the major news was in the Wood Warbler family. Two separate nests of the Bay-breasted Warbler were reported- the first state records. And a report of nesting behavior of Grace's Warbler came from Rye, on the eastern slope.

While the commoner species attract little attention, I would like to close by listing those species which should be expected to rate a B or R in all the state's Latilongs but which still lack sufficient documentation to do so. These species are: Swainson's Hawk, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Killdeer (!), Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Western Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow (!), Cliff Swallow, House Wren, Loggerhead Strike, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Born-headed Cowbird, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow.

GREBES TO IBIS: Western Grebe- fluctuating water levels produced nesting difficultites at Barr L.(RA). Reported common in e. Colo. reservoirs but no signs of nesting(M.ob.)...White Pelican- production good, one-third to one-fourth (103) of young banded(RR)...Great Blue Heron- Chatfield rookery up to 67 nests from 42 last year(HK)... Cattle Egret- Two nests at Riverside Res., seven fledged. Apparently also a nest last summer at Trites Res. (San Luis Valley) and reported there again(WG,RR)*. Also seen Gunnison Co. in June(HK,KC)...White-faced Ibis- Poor success, San Luis Valley(WG).

GEESE & DUCKS: Duck production, in general, at Monte Vista NWR was 2135 as compared with 1123 last year. Still low with respect to long-term average(MS). Wood-duck-fledgling seen 7/23 Chatfield(JC). Seventeen ducklings, Barr L.(RA)...Lesser Scaup- At Pastorius Res., Durango, all summer but no evidence of nesting(KS).

HAWKS & OWLS: Golden Eagle- 400 sites surveyed, average of 1.2 young per site(CDW)...Bald Eagle- 2 sites located, 4 young(CDW)...Osprey-10 nests located; production poor, 0.6 young per site(CDW)...Prairie Falcon- 190 sites surveyed, 2.3 young per site(CDW)...Flammulated Owl- Two pairs near last year's site(RW). Nine individuals with at least one nest, Powderhorn Area, Gunnison(KC)...Pygmy Owl- One young seen, North Cache le Poudre(AF,LC).*

GALLINACEOUS & GAME BIRDS: White-tailed Ptarmigan- Relatively good year, 60% success(CB)...Sage Grouse- Good year, 65% success(DB)...Turkey- two adults, 10 young seen Lake Isabel(DG)...Band-Tailed Pigeon- Seen in unusually high numbers, n. of Boulder and Puelbo, but CB reports nesting down. Small flocks Durango area(KJ).

RAILS & WADERS: Sora- Female with young, McCoy 7/29 (ME)*...Snowy Plover- Young banded Lake Cheraw, 4/8(VT). Forty nests located s.e. Colo. (CCh)...Mountain Plover- Seen west edge of South Park (Park Co)(JP) and Walden, North Park(SE)...Spotted Sandpiper- Nesting confirmed near Lamar (CCh)*...White-rumped Sandpiper- Summered (!) Lake Cheraw (CCh)...Long-billed Dowitcher-Observed RMNP, Shadow Mountain Lake, 7/27: non-breeding straggler but new for Park(D.Happ, NY).

GULLS & TERNS: California Gull- New breeding site at Eleven Mile Res. in South Park(CDW)...Least Tern- Nee Noshe Res. 7/5(E&CH), Lake Henry, 7/3(VT), Two nests, s.e. Colo. (CCh)*...Forster's Tern- One migrant observed, Brown's Park(PG).

CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo- Reports from everywhere. Half-dozen nests reported, including Bonny Res.*(JS,MM) and Latilongs 5&6*. Seen Craig area*(D.JW) and Yellow Jacket, Montezuma Co.(PW)...Black-billed Cuckoo- One nest, John Martin Dam(CCh)*...Chimney Swift- Documented nesting in Dan Pinkham's chimney, Hale, Yuma Co.*(DP,MM,J,LS).. Observed flying, Fort Morgan 7/29 (JR)...Calliope Hummingbird- Many reports particularly at lower elevations. Seen at McCoy(ME).

WOODPECKERS: Lewis' Woodpecker- Four nests found, Longmont-Berthoud area, but no young seen(FAS). Young at feeder, Boulder(EMcG); good year, Durango(KS)...Williamson's Sapsucker- High populations near Florissant(RW) and Durango (KS).

FLYCATCHERS TO CORVIDS: Western Kingbird- Nest near Eagle, 2 young(JM)* and Craig area (D,JW)* [both b to B]... Willow Flycatcher- Banded near Fairplay (LL10)*(CCh)...Tree Swallow- Nest, Chatfield in July, young being fed(HK). Young seen southeast of Loveland(VG)...White-necked Raven- No nests found on prairies, southeast Colo.(CCh). Pueblo area population also down(DG).

WRENS TO VIREOS: Bewick's Wren- As many as 6, Craig vicinity (7/26)*(D,JW)...Short-billed Marsh (Sedge) Wren- Fourteen (!) Red Lion Wildlife Area, (6/27)*(WB)...Veery- Singing, Eagle area(JM)...Warbling Vireo- Probable nesting, John Martin Dam* (CCh).

WARBLERS: Tennessee- Two singing males, RMNP 7/25 (RW)...Grace's-Observed July 10 to 21 near Rye (eastern slope). Nesting suspected but not confirmed(D,CG,DS)*... Bay-breasted-Young with adults, Westcreek, July*(RW). Another pair, July, RMNP*(DB,WR)...Chestnut-sided- Pair, one singing, most of July, RMNP(WR)...Black-throated Blue- Pair seen 6/6, RMNP(C.Mills, IN).

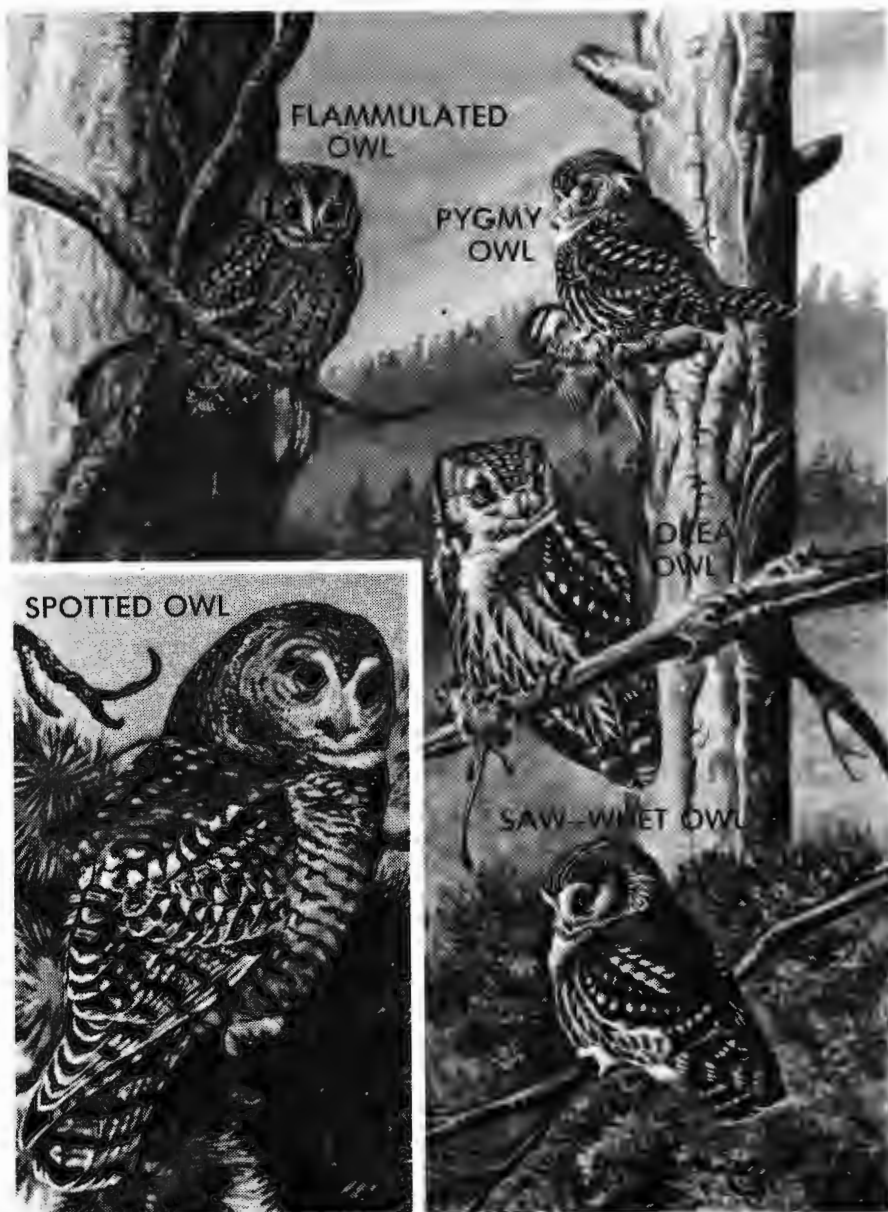
BOBOLINK TO TANAGERS: Orchard Oriole- Nested Crow Valley, Pawnee NG(IA).. Seen 7/10, Fruita area*(DGa).

GROSBEAKS TO BUNTINGS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak- photo, Buena Vista; no nesting suspected(JP)...Blue Grosbeak- Many reports on both e. and w. slopes...Indigo Bunting-Pair nested Barr L.(RA). Individual noted at Ridgway 7/28*(JG). One road kill near Cimarron(KC)... Dickcissel- One nest found in Tamarix (!), Blue Lake Res. Las Animas (CCh).

FINCHES TO SPARROWS: Cassin's Finch- Nest found 45 Ft. up in Aspen, Park Co. Not successful, blew down(CH)... Cassin's Sparrow- Heard singing, Julesburg area*(RA).

OBSERVERS: Idabelle Arndt(IA), Robert Andrews(RA), Clait Braun(CB), David Bray(DB), Winston Brockner(WB), Charles Chase (CCh), John Cooper(JC), Kevin Cook(KC), Larry Crowley(LC), Dave Galinat(DGa), Paul Gorenzel(PG), Dave and Carolyn Griffiths(D,CG), Vivian Gilbert(VG), Walt Gaul(WG), J. Guadagno(JG), Carol Hack(CH), Ed and Camille Harper (E,CH), John Merchant(JM), Margaret Ewing(ME), Steve Emmons (SE), Mike Moulton(MM), Alan Jenkins(AJ), Hugh Kingery(HK), Judy Porrata(JP), Dan Pinkham(DPP), Eva McGregor(McG), Warner Reeser(WR), Joe Rigli(JR), Ron Ryder(RR), Dave Silverman(DS), Milton Suthers, Monte Vista NWR(MS), Van Truan(VT), Judd and Linda Sundine (J,LS), Kip Stransky(KS), Doug and Judy Ward(D,JW), Pat Wheat(PW), Roberta Wiln(RW), Colorado Division of Wildlife(CDW), Foothills Audubon Society(FAS).

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE OWLS IN COLORADO?



If you have seen or heard any of these secretive owls pictured and described here during your hiking, hunting, or camping excursions in the Colorado Rockies

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

The COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE NONGAME RESEARCH is attempting to locate breeding sites and determine habitat/elevation preferences of these five poorly understood owls in Colorado.

Descriptions (Clockwise from top left)

Flammulated Owl: A very small owl, length 6-7" with dark eyes, a rusty facial disk, and inconspicuous "ear tufts." Voice: a single or double soft "hoot."

Pygmy Owl: A small owl, length 6½-7½" with yellow eyes, black and white patches on the back of the head. Wags its relatively long tail. Occasionally active during daylight hours. Voice: a slow series of whistled toots.

Boreal Owl: A medium sized owl, length 9-12", short tailed, flat-headed appearance. Facial area bordered with black. Eyes and bill yellow. Spotted on the crown. Voice: a series of staccato whistled bell-like notes.

Saw-whet Owl: a small owl, length 7-8½". White below with rusty-brown streaking. Streaks on crown. Its head looks disproportionately large. Eyes yellow, dark bill. Voice: A monotonous series of low toots at one pitch.

Spotted Owl: A large owl, length 16-18" with dark eyes. Dark brown above, spotted with white on head, back, wings, and breast. Can generally be closely approached. Usually near rocky cliff faces or wooded canyons. Voice: 2 or 3 loud short hoos followed by a louder, more prolonged hoo-ah.

If you can contribute information about any of the above please send us a written description which includes:

1. Your name, address, and phone number.
2. Which species of owl you encountered and how you identified it.
3. Date of observation (as nearly as possible).
4. Location: please supply a description from which Division of Wildlife Personnel can relocate your bird(s).

Forward to:

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
OWL INVESTIGATION
P. O. Box 2287
Fort Collins, CO 80522

BULLETIN BOARD

BARR LAKE MATERIALS DEPOSITED IN DMNH

Barr Lake and the adjacent portions of Adams Co. have been one of the most fruitful and most thoroughly studied areas in Colorado from an ornithological standpoint, and much information on that area has accumulated over the years. All of this material has been collected by Robert Andrews and has been deposited in the Dept. of Zoological Collections at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

This material consists of a listing of known records of all species recorded from the area, and the personal, unpublished field notes and censuses of Robert Andrews. The material is based on the published works of early ornithologists such as Rockwell and Niedrach, the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History, numerous field trips by individuals and groups of amateur ornithologists and the four years of field work conducted by Robert Andrews for the Colo. Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Denver Audubon Society. It is hoped that this material will serve as a basis for future reference and field work in this productive area, and all interested persons are invited and encouraged to use it as such.

LATILONG STUDY STILL AVAILABLE

The Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study is available for \$2.00 (postpaid) from Colorado Field Ornithologists, c/o Judd Sundine, 5325 Garland Str., Arvada, Colo. 80003. The C.F.O. earns one dollar from each Latilong Study purchased through them.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON STUDY

Dr. Clait Braun of the Colorado Division of Wildlife has requested our help in his study of a Band-tailed Pigeon population in northern Boulder County. Dr. Braun has wing-tagged several hundred birds at a roosting site north of Niwot, and is seeking information from anyone who may have encountered any of the tagged birds in the field. He would like to know where the birds were seen, when they were seen, and in what direction they were going. Dr. Braun may be contacted at the Colo. Division of Wildlife, Wildlife Research Station, 317 West Prospect, Ft. Collins, Colo. 80526, telephone 848-2836.

CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

- September 15 and 16 Northeastern Colorado, Logan and Sedgwick Counties. Camp Friday night (9/14) at Tamarack Ranch check station (1 to 2 miles South of Crook, Colorado) or meet at the check station at 9 a.m. (9/15). Bird Red Lion, Jumbo Res., Ovid, Julesburg Rest Stop. We will check out reservoirs along South Platte on return trip Sunday. Hope to see Eastern Bluebird and E. Meadowlark, Sedge Wren, Bell's Vireo, shorebirds and more. Call Mark Homgren (449-6560) if you are planning to come along. We would like to pool comradery (and save fuel).
- October 7 Boulder Hawk Watch, Freeman Hall, leader
Sunday morning (444-1453). Meet at the Boulder Public
or full day Library, 10th & Canyon at 8:00 AM. Carpool
option from there to Dakota Ridge where we will
observe the passage of raptors until noon.
Bring lunches and liquids. Bring spotting
scopes.
- October 7 Shorebirding at Boulder County Reservoirs.
Sunday noon Bruce Webb, leader. On this trip following
until 4-5 PM. the morning hawk watch, we will go beyond
species identification of shorebirds. Using
spotting scopes and a high powered Celestron
telescope, we will discuss plumages and sort
out immature birds from adults. Emphasis on
a minimum of mileage and a maximum of flock
information.
- November 10 Chatfield Reservoir. Frank & Jan Justice,
Full day. leaders. (936-4547). Meet a Bear Valley
Shopping Center, West of May D & F at 8:00
AM or at the West Gate of Chatfield
Reservoir at 8:30 AM.
- November 20 Seminar in Ornithology to Colima, Mexico.
through 30 Co-leader-Freeman Hall. Sponsored by
National Audubon Society. Those interested
contact Robin Hernbrode, NAS Office
499-0219, for cost.

Suggestions for field trips or volunteers to lead them are solicited by the Field Trips Chairman. Contact Freeman Hall (444-1453), 305 Bellevue, Boulder, Colorado 80302.