

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



FEMALE LEAST BITTERN WITH YOUNG

Photograph by Horst K. Dröger
4240 Evans Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80303

Photograph by Horst K. Dröger

The Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis) was photographed on July 21, 1979, at the Sawhill Ponds area northeast of Boulder. "I discovered the nest with five eggs on July 13 while walking along the edge of an embankment overlooking patches of dense cattails. The nest was built out of cattail leaves and secured in cattails over about two feet of water. After the eggs hatched, I set up a bird blind and the following morning I went with my wife Sandra and son Jay to take some pictures. After setting up my camera equipment inside the blind, Sandra and Jay left the area and, since birds can't count, it gave them the impression that everyone had left. Because the nest was built in dense vegetation, I had to position the blind only ten feet from the nest. The female Least Bittern returned after one hour. The birds are very shy and cautious. During the three hours of observation, the adults returned four times to feed the four nestlings. Some nestlings left the nest several times as if to exercise."

Least bitterns have been observed with some regularity at Sawhill Ponds for several summers, and have even been photographed there before, but this is the first confirmation of nesting there.

Horst K. Dröger is an amateur photographer employed by Mountain Bell. In the last five years he has photographed many different birds in Colorado and Florida mostly during the breeding season. For his photographic efforts he has won numerous awards, including a \$500.00 first-place prize from Kodak for a picture of a Barn Swallow in flight feeding its young. Mr. Dröger will be exhibiting his work at the 1979 C.F.O. convention scheduled for May in Boulder at Chautauqua Resort. Enlarged color prints of the Least Bittern and many more works by Mr. Dröger will be available for sale at that time.

For his Least Bittern photo Mr. Dröger used a Hasselblad camera with a 250 mm. lens and Kodacolor II film. The exposure was at f/11 at 1/250th second. He used two electronic flashes to capture his subject.

RIPARIAN BIRDS OF PICEANCE CREEK BASIN, COLORADO
AND A NEW METHOD OF EXPRESSING BIRD CENSUS DATA

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Oil shale development has begun in northwestern Colorado, an area heretofore paid little attention by ornithologists. Mining activities coupled with the paucity of riparian habitat in this semi-arid region make the threat to riparian bird communities potentially great. A prototype oil shale mining operation (oil shale tract C-b) has begun activity 0.8 km directly upslope from Piceance Creek, located in Rio Blanco County. Piceance Creek, averaging about 3 m wide and 0.5 m deep, is the only reliable year-round source of water and supports nearly all the riparian habitat in the 5875 km² Piceance Creek Basin. Pollution in the form of runoff of mine wastes and increased trace element levels will likely be a very real problem for Piceance Creek in the near future.

Earlier species lists (Warren 1908, Hendee 1929, Davis 1969) and the most recent compilation of distributional information available for this general area (Kingery and Graul 1978) are inadequate for describing bird communities on specific riparian sites. This paper reports on bird species composition and relative abundances downstream from tract C-b before extensive mining activity got under way, and thus can be used as comparison data for future studies on the effects of mining. It also reports the data in such a way so as to be more useful and meaningful to both amateur and professional ornithologists.

METHODS: The study area was a flat, homogeneous, 2-km stretch of riparian habitat located along Piceance Creek. It was approximately 11 km south of Piceance Creek's confluence with the White River (Fig. 1), at an elevation of 1800 m. It was 19 km downstream from tract C-b, a distance great enough so that future changes in the bird community could not be attributed to the noise and commotion at the mining site. The study area was treeless, with vegetation consisting primarily of sedges (Carex spp.) in the wet meadows and reed grass (Phragmites communis) along the creek banks. Clumps of greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus), big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), rose (Rosa sp.), and currant (Ribes sp.) were present, but widely scattered. Cattail (Typha latifolia) was present in small clumps outside the study area. Bordering the riparian habitat were steep, arid hills dominated by old-growth pinyon (Pinus edulis) and Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma).

The field method used was a combination of the British Waterways Bird Survey (Williamson 1975), methods suggested by Diem (1976), and some additional modifications. Twenty stations were marked at 100 m intervals, with each station located on the creek bank to permit viewing of the creek as well as surrounding riparian habitat. Because the creek was not straight, the stations were not arranged in a straight line. Data collected were numbers of each species seen and/or heard within a 50 m radius of each station during a 5 minute period. Counts began 0.5 hr before sunrise and lasted about 2.5 hr. The direction of travel along the route was reversed each day to remove some of the bias of time of day on birds observations.

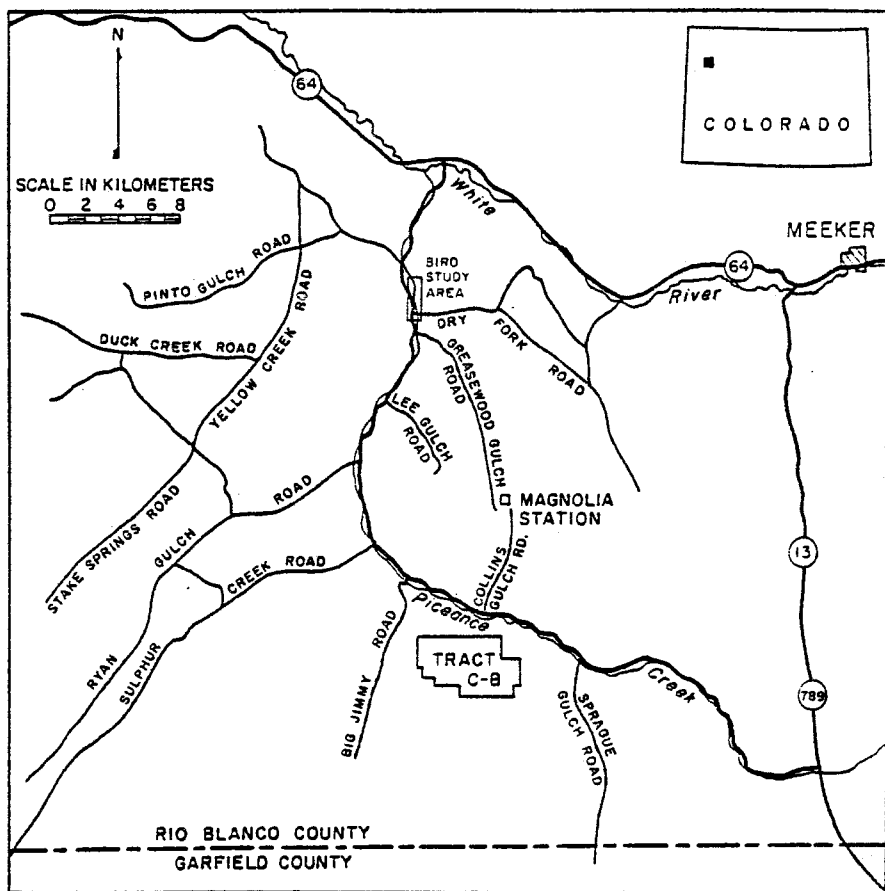


Fig. 1. Location of riparian bird study area in the Piceance Creek Basin, Colorado, for 1977-178, in relation to oil shale tract C-b.

The data were collected during 6-15 June 1977 and 7-16 June 1978. No inclement weather as defined by Diem (1976) interfered with the field work.

RESULTS: Results are summarized in Table 1. Twenty-five species were noted in 1977 and twenty-three in 1978. Three species were noted in 1977 that were not noted in 1978, and one species was noted in 1978 that was not noted in 1977.

The colonial Cliff Swallows (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota) were too numerous and flew too fast to count accurately in the study area. Active nests in colonies near enough to contribute birds to the study area, verified by observation, were counted instead. Species observed have since been included in the compilation by Kingery and Graul (1978), for latilong blocks 1 (Rangely) and 8 (Grand Junction).

DISCUSSION: In the scientific literature, there is no terminology which explains briefly, adequately, and clearly to all readers the comparative abundances of species or their likelihood of being observed (Bailey and Niedrach 1965:7). The method shown in Table 1 allows flexibility in reporting results. An indication of the visibility of each species is indicated, both in time (temporal observability) and in space (ubiquity). It also reports the relative frequency, which is the reporting method used most often by professional ornithologists in reporting this type of data. It is useful to simultaneously express data in all these ways because of the variability in the overall nature of different bird species. For example, the Yellow-headed Blackbird (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus) had low temporal observability, low ubiquity, and low relative frequency. This is a logical sequence, since a bird seldom observed and observed in only a few places would be expected to be present in low numbers. However, the Sora (Porzana carolina) had high temporal observability but low ubiquity and relative frequency. So even though readily observed on each visit to the area, the Sora was in reality present in only a few places and in low numbers. By expressing data in the manner shown, wrong conclusions about the status of a species can be avoided.

The method also allows for more meaningful year-to-year comparisons. For example, the temporal observability and ubiquity of Brewer's Blackbirds (Euphagus cyanocephalus) were very closely related in 1977 and 1978, but relative frequency was lower in 1978. This indicates that although still readily observed, and observed over a wide area, the total number of birds on the area may have declined in 1978.

Differences in relative frequency between years were evident for several species. Because of the specialized nature of riparian birds, year-to-year differences are expected. Especially noticeable, however, was the decline of both Brewer's Blackbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus), the area's most abundant birds. It can be noted that the decline in relative frequency of Red-wings affected the ubiquity, whereas the decline in Brewer's did not affect their ubiquity. Because of this, the decline of Red-wings may be noticed more quickly. Rough-winged Swallows (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis) and the number of active Cliff Swallow nests were also considerably lower in 1978.

Because this survey technique is fairly new and inadequately discussed in previous literature, some comments concerning field work are in order. It was found to be best not only to avoid crossing the creek, but also, to stay out of sight of the water when moving between stations. Birds along the water were disturbed more easily and moved farther when disturbed than birds in the wet meadows. It is advisable, therefore, to place all permanent station markers on one side of the stream. Also, stations should be located on the side of the stream closest to the rising sun, to avoid being blinded by the sun's reflection off the water.

Several species had a tendency to follow or be pushed from station to station. One spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia) with a crippled leg was seen on five consecutive stations on the same day. In an extreme example, a Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus), kept within both sight and hearing distance, was observed on 16 consecutive stations. Multiple counting is to be avoided, since this results in overestimation of ubiquity and relative frequency. When bird densities are low, it is not difficult to keep birds already counted within sight or hearing distance. In situations of high density, a good method is to record only that number for each species which represents more than the last station's total. For example, suppose that on station 10 fourteen Brewer's Blackbirds were counted, and on station 11 eighteen were counted. If an unknown number followed between stations, the number recorded for station 11 would be 18 minus 14, or 4.

Five minutes of observation per station was probably adequate for this treeless area. For areas of denser vegetation or higher bird diversity and/or density, more time may be required. This would necessitate either a smaller study area, in order that all stations be visited during the early morning hours, or more personnel.

Table 1. Riparian birds observed¹ in Piceance Creek Basin, Rio Blanco County, Colorado, during 6-15 June 1977 and 7-16 June 1978.

	TEMPORAL OBSERVABILITY		UBIQUITY		RELATIVE FREQUENCY	
	(Number of days observed Maximum of 10)		(Mean number of stations observed at, on days observed)		(Mean number observed per day/km)	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Mallard						
<u>Anas platyrhynchos</u>	10	9	2.7	1.9	3.5	1.9
American Green-winged Teal						
<u>Anas crecca</u>	4	9	1.0	1.8	0.4	1.3
Blue-winged Teal						
<u>Anas discors</u>	8	--	1.8	--	1.0	--
Cinnamon Teal						
<u>Anas cyanoptera</u>	10	9	3.2	1.3	2.6	1.1
Common Merganser						
<u>Mergus merganser</u>	2	8	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.8
Sora						
<u>Porzana carolina</u>	10	9	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.5
Killdeer						
<u>Charadrius vociferus</u>	10	10	2.9	2.7	1.6	1.9
Common Snipe						
<u>Capella gallinago</u>	8	8	2.8	1.3	1.2	0.5
Spotted Sandpiper						
<u>Actitis macularia</u>	10	10	9.3	6.1	6.2	4.4
Wilson's Phalarope						
<u>Steganopus tricolor</u>	10	10	5.1	3.4	4.6	3.1

Mourning Dove							
<u>Zenaid macroura</u>	4	2	1.0	1.5	0.2	0.2	
Common Flicker							
<u>Colaptes auratus</u>	9	5	2.3	1.4	1.2	0.4	
Say's Phoebe							
<u>Sayornis saya</u>	--	1	--	1.0	--	0.1	
Violet-green Swallow							
<u>Tachycineta thalassina</u>	8	7	2.3	1.6	1.1	1.0	
Rough-winged Swallow							
<u>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</u>	10	1	3.5	1.0	2.6	0.1	
Barn Swallow							
<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	3	2	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.2	
Cliff Swallow							
<u>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</u>							
Black-billed Magpie							
<u>Pica pica</u>	1	--	1.0	--	0.1	--	
American Robin							
<u>Turdus migratorius</u>	7	9	1.4	1.7	0.5	0.9	
Mountain Bluebird							
<u>Sialia currucoides</u>	3	--	1.0	--	0.2	--	
Common Yellowthroat							
<u>Geothlypis trichas</u>	10	10	3.0	3.1	1.2	1.7	
Western Meadowlark							
<u>Sturnella neglecta</u>	10	9	6.1	2.1	4.0	1.2	
Yellow-headed Blackbird							
<u>Xanthocephalus</u>							
<u>xanthocephalus</u>	3	3	1.3	1.0	0.3	0.4	
Red-winged Blackbird							
<u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u>	10	10	15.2	9.1	15.3	6.4	
Brewer's Blackbird							
<u>Euphagus cyanocephalus</u>	10	10	15.4	14.1	24.0	17.1	
Song Sparrow							
<u>Melospiza melodia</u>	10	9	5.0	2.1	3.2	1.2	

¹Observed means seen and/or heard.

²Active nests totaled 128 in 1977, 62 in 1978.

It is intended that this work be continued during the oil shale mining process. Gross changes in bird community structure could indicate habitat deterioration, and investigations into the cause of deterioration would be called for. If changes were found to be due to mining activities, the loss of wildlife and wildlife habitat could be remedied under current federal mitigation procedures.

I thank Ronald A. Ryder for comment and editorial assistance. This project was funded by contract number 14-16-0008-2111 of the Office of Biological Services, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

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SITE GUIDE TO THE UNCOMPAHGRE PLATEAU

by

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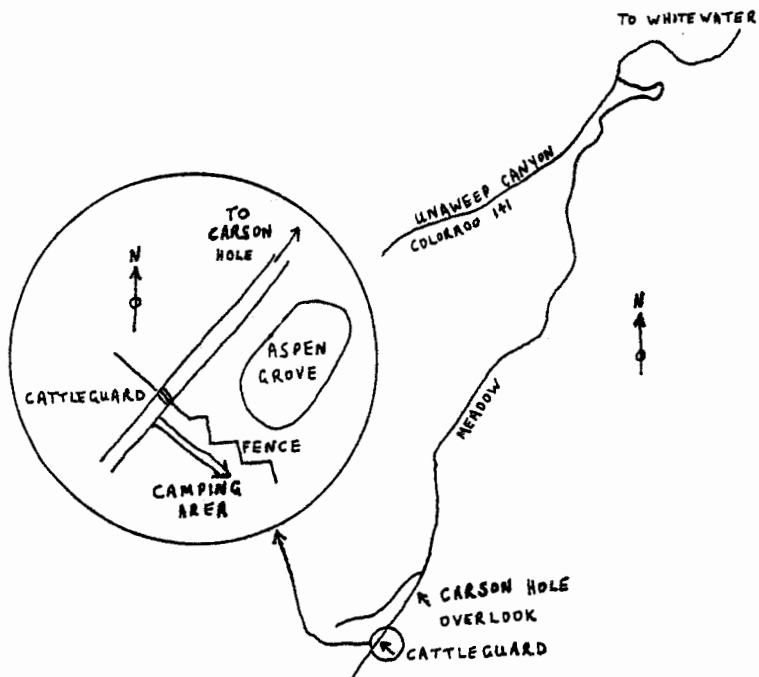
The Uncompahgre Plateau is one of the better birdwatching areas of western Colorado. In June 1979, we visited a particularly good birding spot at the northern end of the plateau. In past years, this site has proven to be excellent for small owls, Accipiters, and several species of cavity-nesting birds.

To get there, travel southeast from Grand Junction on U.S. 50 to the town of Whitewater. Turn southwest on Colorado 141 and proceed to the mouth of Unawep Canyon. A Scott's Oriole was discovered in a cottonwood near the canyon mouth during the 1977 C.F.O. convention in Grand Junction. Birding along this riparian vegetation is easy and profitable. Farther up, the canyon widens and the vegetation changes to Pinyon-Juniper woodlands. Some birds frequently encountered here include Cassin's Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, and Common Bushtit. After 15 miles from Whitewater turn left on a dirt road marked with signs to the Uncompahgre Plateau. The road climbs steeply and provides excellent views of the canyon. At the top of the plateau it crosses a large meadow which is a good area for Mountain Bluebirds and Vesper Sparrows. It was ablaze with larkspurs, penstemons, Indian paintbrushes and many other flowers during our visit. Poorwills and common Nighthawks can be seen along the road at night. About 10.5 miles from Colorado 141 bear left as the road divides, and continue 0.5 miles to a pull-off on the left. This scenic overlook provides a spectacular view of Carson Hole, a magnificent, tree-lined canyon where we saw White-throated swifts and violet-green swallows playing in up-drafts. Look carefully for Goshawks and Cliff Swallows.

Continue driving for 2.0 miles to the first cattle guard, which marks the destination of this site guide. The road bisects a large mixed stand of Ponderosa Pine and Aspens where we found the nest holes of eight species of birds, marked with (*) in the following species list. Most of these were in the small aspen grove that is 30 m. east of the cattle guard (to the left of the road and just before the zig-zag fence). In 1977 a Pygmy Owl, and in 1978 and 1979 a pair of Flammulated Owls nested in this grove. A nesting pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers, common in this area, are another highlight of the grove. We saw a Goshawk

on both days we were there. The following birds are those we encountered on the plateau during our June 1979 visit.

Turkey Vulture	3	Steller's Jay	6
Northern Goshawk	1	Common Raven	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Mountain Chickadee	10
Red-tailed Hawk	1	*White-breasted Nuthatch	5
*Flammulated Owl	2	*Pygmy Nuthatch	4
and 2 others heard		*Northern House Wren	3
Common Nighthawk	4	American Robin	6
White-throated Swift	20	*Western Bluebird	10
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1	Mountain Bluebird	4
*Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker	3	Warbling Vireo	1
*Yellow-bellied		Yellow-rumped	
(Red-naped) Sapsucker	2	(Audubon's) Warbler	2
*Williamson's Sapsucker	6	Western Tanager	1
Western Wood Pewee	2	Pine Siskin	8
Violet-Green Swallow	4	Gray-headed Junco	7
Tree Swallow	2	Chipping Sparrow	12



FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 1978

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The weather in the fall of 1978 was mostly good and dry. In the foothills, the lakes and reservoirs were still fairly full from the large spring runoff. However, in the far west of the state and out on the plains there were reports of dried-up lakes and very little precipitation. This combination made for a poor fall for waders, with few rarities and low numbers. The lack of prominent cold fronts in the fall meant, also, that relatively few rare warblers were reported; the unusual reports came from the foothills and the southwest. Numbers of other fall migrants were lower, e.g., few Scoters were reported, with none seen in the Durango area for the first time in some years. Durango had compensation, however, with several rare species, including a first valid state record of Purple Gallinule. (The 1911 Purple Gallinule reported in Bailey and Niedrach [1965:308] was determined to have been an escapee.) An Anna's Hummingbird was in Grand Junction until the first subzero temperatures hit, a Black Vulture and a Pileated Woodpecker reported in Boulder County, and two reports of Phainopeplas. Finally, Rufous and Calliope hummingbirds were plentiful in August.

The following list comprises sightings of unusual fall migrants and uncommon resident species and any interesting reports of commoner species.

LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS: Common Loon- Few reports, with a high count of 10 at Union Res., Longmont on 11/4 (PM,PG)...Red-necked Grebe - A single report from Boulder on 10/11(LH)...Green Heron- Only two reports, with one at Rocky Ford on 8/6(MH) and one in Pueblo on 9/2(C&DG)...Cattle Egret- 18 reports of this rapidly spreading and expanding species; 4 reports were from the west slope...Louisiana Heron- 1 was at Rocky Ford in the Arkansas Valley on 8/6(MH). This is the 10th state record...American Bittern- Again only 2 reports. One was in Grand Junction on 9/28(MF), and a very late one in Boulder, on 11/18(FH)...Least Bittern- 1 immature was last seen on 9/10 at Sawhill Ponds, Boulder(FH). Nesting was not confirmed, but has been in 1979.

DUCKS & GEESE: Whistling Swan- 18 were reported from Chatfield Res., Denver; Alamosa Refuge; and Durango. White-fronted Goose- Very scarce, with only 1 report, from Lamar, on 11/10(VT)...European Wigeon- 1 was reported at Chatfield Res. for three weeks in October. I saw this bird, and it was not like any European Wigeon I have ever seen. In fact, several other observers and I couldn't tell either

its sex or whether it was an American or European, as it had field marks corresponding to all of these combinations... Wood Duck- 24 individuals were reported, with 7 at Chatfield on 8/26(J&FJ) and 9 at Pueblo Res. on 9/29(VT)...Barrow's Goldeneye- 6 were reported, with 4 at Grand Lake on 11/4 (DJ)...Oldsquaw- A single report from Union Res. on 11/26 (PM)...White-winged Scoter- Only 1 was reported, from Colorado City on 11/12(DS)...Surf Scoter- Again, only 1 report, from Clover Basin Res., north of Boulder, on 11/19 (TR,PG)...Red-breasted Merganser- A single report, from McCall Lake, Longmont, on 11/12(PG). Surely this cannot be the only one seen?...Hooded Merganser- 21 individuals were reported, with 10 at Baseline Res., Boulder, on 11/12(FH)...Ruddy Shelduck- The 2 at Cherry Creek Res., Denver, during September and October were almost certainly escaped birds...Red-crested Pochard- This was also probably an escapee and was at Chatfield Res., Denver, during September and October.

HAWKS & FALCONS: Black Vulture- Exhibiting rooftop roosting behavior typical of the species, one was seen in a residential area of Boulder on 9/10(PW). There are no confirmed state records of this species, and this report is being reviewed by the Official Records Committee...Northern Goshawk- 24 individuals of this uncommon accipiter were reported, with 14 reports from Grand Lake area(DJ)...Red-shouldered Hawk- This buteo, unusual for Colorado, was reported at Chatfield Res. on 11/18(HK)...Bald Eagle- Only 18 were reported from throughout the state, which seems a very low number...Osprey- A good flight, with 15 reports widely distributed throughout the state...Peregrine Falcon- There were 6 reports of this rare falcon, and 3 were from the Durango area(KS)...Merlin- There were 9 reports from widely scattered locations. This, again, seems a very low number when, in some winters, one can sometimes see 2 to 3 per day in suitable habitat.

CRANES & RAILS: Whooping Crane- 1 was at Grand Junction on 10/11(MF). There was a maximum count of 9 at Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, where they were present from 10/10 to 11/28...Sandhill Crane- Good numbers were reported throughout the state, with a peak of 2,000 at Alamosa Refuge (BC)...Purple Gallinule- One individual was first seen on 8/6(EF), and then by many observers. Good photographs were obtained to confirm the first state record of this species.

SHOREBIRDS & GULLS: American Golden Plover- The only report was 3 at Barr Lake, Denver, on 10/14(RA,PG)...Snowy Plover- Many were in the Arkansas River drainage this year (see the Summer '78 Report). 30 were at Cheraw Res. on 8/6(MH)...Upland Sandpiper- The 2 reports were: 1 at Campo on 8/2(CW), and 1 at Fort Morgan on 9/10(JR)...Red Knot- There were 2 reports of this unusual wader, from Berthoud on 8/3 and from Loveland on 9/4(VB)...Black-necked Stilt- 20 individuals were reported, with 15 at Rocky Ford on 8/6

(MH)...Red Phalarope- A single individual of this most difficult-to-see phalarope in Colorado was on Baseline Res., Boulder, on 10/1(BW, PG)...Northern Phalarope- An unusual west slope report was 1 at Grand Junction on 9/14(MF)...Bonaparte's Gull- There were not many reports of this unusual gull, but 1 was at Meeker on 11/12(JW). The maximum number at Union Res., Longmont, was 25 on 11/12, and the last was seen on 11/26(PM)...Sabine's Gull- Only 1 was reported, from east of Boulder on 11/19(PG)...Forster's Tern- There were few reports, with the 4 at Union Res. on 10/22 being very late(PM,PG).

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS: Barn Owl- Only 3 were reported, with 1 at Fort Morgan on 9/3(JR), and 2 at Fort Collins on 9/16 on the Fall Count...Pygmy Owl- Only 5 reports from throughout the mountainous parts of the state. This owl is supposed to be common, but I'm not convinced...Long-eared Owl- The 3 reports were from Northern Fremont County on 9/22(BP), from Laporte on 10/24(TB), and from Grand Junction on 11/6(ES)...Short-eared Owl- Only 2 sightings were reported; one was on the Fort Collins Fall Count on 9/16, the other from Alamosa Refuge on 11/30(BC)...Snowy Owl- An unusual report from a very high elevation was one on Mount Audubon, west of Boulder, on 10/29(MR)...Common Nighthawk- An unusually large flock was 400-500 at Fort Morgan on 8/16(JR)...Black Swift- The only report was 3 at Ridgway on 8/4(DG)...Rufous Hummingbird- Described as numerous in Grand Junction, and 20 individuals were reported elsewhere. 1 in Estes Park on 10/1 was very late(WR)...Calliope Hummingbird- A good year, with 14 individuals reported. 7 were counted in the Boulder Mountain Parks at the beginning of September(C&BB)...Anna's Hummingbird- A male was first seen in Grand Junction on 11/14(HT). It stayed on into December and was seen by many observers...Blue-throated Hummingbird- An immature bird was at Beulah, near Pueblo, on 9/28(VT).

WOODPECKERS: Pileated Woodpecker- 1 was seen in pine forest near Boulder on 9/27 and was well described by DG1. There are no confirmed sightings of this species in Colorado. Although this report was probably valid, it was by a single observer and no photograph was taken, thus it probably cannot be used for the first state record...Lewis' Woodpecker- An unusually high elevation sighting was 2 at Jefferson, Park County, on 9/4(CH)...Northern Three-toed Woodpecker- There was a total of 6 sightings: 2 at Durango on 10/15(KS); 3 in the Boulder Mountain Parks on 10/31(C&BB); and 1 from Grand Lake on 11/4(DJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES: Eastern Phoebe-2 were reported, with 1 in Boulder on 8/19(C&BB), and 1 at Pueblo on 10/12(DS)...Purple Martin- 10 individuals were seen, with 8 reported from Summit Res. near Durango, between

8/30 and 9/21(KS)...Blue Jay- This species continues to spread slowly westward, with 1 seen in Grand Junction on 11/12(MF)... Common Bushtit- There were several reports, mainly from the west half of the state. Large flocks were 45 at Ridgway on 10/11(DG), and 50 at Colorado Springs on 11/4(R&JW)...Red-breasted Nuthatch- An unusual plains report was 1 at Fort Morgan on 8/25(JR).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES: Bewick's Wren- A west slope report was 1 at Grand Junction on 11/12(MF)... Northern Mockingbird- 3 were seen in Boulder: 1 on 8/6 (LH), and 2 on 11/13(P&GE); 1 was seen in Fort Morgan on 11/13, and was said to be wintering there(JR)...Sage Thrasher - There was only 1 report of 5 at Platteville on 9/17(FH). Surely this species is commoner than this! ...Mountain Bluebird- In northern Fremont County, over 4,000 Bluebirds were seen on 9/22, and 90% or more were Mountain Bluebirds(BP)...Blue-gray Gnatcatcher- A northerly report was 1 in Fort Collins on 9/16(AB-S,RW)...Phainopepla- 1 immature was seen at Wellington, Larimer County, on 9/16, and 1 in Durango on 9/24, both by many observers. These are the 3rd and 4th state records...Northern Shrike- There were only 6 reports from throughout the state, which seems very low.

VIREOS & WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo- The only two reports of this breeding species were 1 in Boulder on 8/21 (LH), and 1 north of Boulder on 8/28(IW). Philadelphia Vireo- An individual of this very unusual vireo in Colorado was seen in Gunnison on 9/23(KC). Excellent details were sent to the Official Records Committee on this bird... Prothonotary Warbler- One was seen at Prewitt Res. on 9/5 (BW, TM)...Tennessee Warbler- There were only 4 reports: from Ridgway on 9/2(DG), from Boulder on 9/14 and 10/7 (FH), and from Fort Collins on 10/23(KSe)...Nashville Warbler- 1 was seen in Boulder on 10/7(C&BB)...Magnolia Warbler- The only report was from Ridgway on 9/13(DG) ...Townsend's Warbler- There were only 4 reports of this usually quite common migrant: 1 was in Ridgway on 9/9(DG), 1 in Fort Morgan on 9/16(TR), 1 in Aurora, on 9/18(MS), and 1 in Lykins Gulch, north of Boulder, on 9/20(IW) ...Black-throated Green Warbler...The only report was of 2 individuals in Boulder on 10/13(BB)...Black-throated Blue Warbler- There were 2 reports: a male in northern Fremont County on 9/25(BP), and a female in Lykins Gulch on 10/7 (FH)...Black-throated Gray Warbler- The latest departure date of this west slope breeder was from Ridgway on 8/28 (DG)...Blackpoll Warbler- An unusual west slope report was 1 in Ridgway on 9/13(DG)...Pine Warbler- Again from Ridgway, the individual was seen on 10/19(DG). The report of this very rare warbler in Colorado is being reviewed by the Official Records Committee...Ovenbird- The only report was from Lykins Gulch, north of Boulder, on 9/6(IW)...Northern Waterthrush- 2 reports from the west slope were at Ridgway on 9/15(DG) and at Palisade near Grand Junction on 11/10 (BT)...Connecticut Warbler- 2 individuals of this very rare

warbler in Colorado were reported from Fort Collins on 9/16 (D&VS). No report has been received by the Official Records Committee...Hooded Warbler- The only report was 1 in Boulder on 9/3(BC1).

BLACKBIRDS & TANAGERS: Rusty Blackbird- A flock of 7 was seen near McCall Lake, west of Longmont, on 11/23 (TR,PG). This flock remained for some time, and a smaller number were recorded on the Longmont Christmas Count...Scarlet Tanager- The only report was a male seen at Powderhorn, Gunnison County, on 8/10(JB)...Summer Tanager- A male was seen in Ignacio, near Durango, on 9/16(EF)...Hepatic Tanager- One was reported from Mesa de Mayo, Las Animas County, on 8/10(JS,BWe). This species was also seen here in 1979, and nesting is suspected.

FINCHES & SPARROWS: Blue Grosbeak- Only 2 reports of 3 individuals, with 2 in Berthoud on 8/16(VB), and 1 in Colorado Springs on 9/14(AD). This seems very low...Pine Grosbeak- A report of a large flock of 25 at Guanella Pass on 11/30(CB)...Black Rosy Finch- 50 were seen in one flock at Plateau Creek, near Grand Junction, in mid-November (MF)...Brown-capped Rosy Finch- A flock of over 100 was seen along U.S. Highway 285 in South Park on 11/12(KE)...White-winged Crossbill- 3 individuals of this very difficult to find species were seen at Alma, Park County, on 9/9(CC)...Baird's Sparrow- Again, this is a really hard species to see, and 3 individuals were reported in Boulder on 9/4(MM)...Sage Sparrow- The only report was of 3 birds in Craig on 9/9(LM). More information is needed to determine how this uncommon breeding species is distributed in the state...Field Sparrow- The only report was one in Pueblo on 10/31(DS)...Harris' Sparrow- Only 11 individuals reported, but very widely distributed throughout the state. The reports included ones from Grand Junction(MF), from Durango(EF), and from Fort Morgan(JR)...White-throated Sparrow- Again, 11 individuals were reported, but all from the foothills...Fox Sparrow- The last was seen at Ridgway on 10/6(DG)...Snow Bunting- The only report was of a single bird in Boulder on 11/11(KN).

INITIALED OBSERVERS: Robert Andrews(RA), Verlie Beeler(VB), Ted Bodner(TB), Cathy & Bruce Bosley(C&BB), Anna Brandenburg-Schroeder(AB-S), Clait Braun(CB), Jim Bredy(JB), Charlie Campbell(CC), Bob Charnell(BC), Bea Clawson(BC1), Kevin Cook(KC), Alice Dennis(AD), Paula & Gary Emerson(P&GE), K. Ewing(KE), Mary Fischer(MF), Elva Fox(EF), Peter Gent(PG), D. Glaze(DG1), Caroline & Dave Griffiths(C&DG), Dick Guadagno(DG), Carol Hack(CH), Freeman Hall(FH), Larry Halsey(LH), Mark Holmgren(MH), David Jasper(DJ), Jan & Frank Justice(J&FJ), Hugh Kingery(HK), Larry Malone(LM), Tim Manolis(TM), Mike Manson(MM), Peter Moulton(PM), Karen Nickey(KN), Ben Pinkowski(BP), Melissa Reading(MR), Warner Reeser(WR), Joe Rigli(JR), Terry Root(TR), Edith Schlesselman(ES), Ken Sejkora(KSe),

Dave Silverman(DS), Mildred Snyder(MS), Debbie & Vern Stelter(D&VS), Kip Stransky(KS), Judd Sundine(JS), Leonard Tecovich(LT), Bert Tignor(BT), Helen Traylor(HT), Van Truan(VT), Chuck Wagner(CW), Judy Ward(JW), Rosie & Jim Watts(R&JW), Betsy Webb(BWe), Bruce Webb(BW), Iva Wilson(IW), Richard Wright(RW).

WINTER SEASON, DECEMBER 1, 1978 - FEBRUARY 28, 1979

by Charles L. Campbell
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This summary of the 78-79 Winter Season is based largely on individual contributor reports other than Christmas Bird Count(CBC) compilations. I have listed some species from the few CBC lists I had available, but will leave the full accounting of the state's CBCs to Dave Hutchinson. Therefore this report will be weighed heavily away from CBC totals and may therefore exclude many species /totals present during the period but not observed or reported other than on the CBCs.

The unusually cold weather with heavy snow fall during this winter is certainly one of the main reasons there were fewer species reported this year (about 162) vs. the last couple of winters when about 20 more were reported. Hopefully the CBCs will include more species that will bring the winter's total up a bit. The migrants may not have delayed their journey south long enough to be seen and the resident species may have been under cover due to the often poor weather. With the cold and snow, the resident birders might well have been under cover also, resulting in fewer observers afield.

One might have thought that some of the far northern wintering species would have been driven down to our balmy climes, but this does not seem to have been the case this winter. Compare this year's numbers of Snow Buntings to the incredible numbers of last year. Northern Shrike reports were few and far between and there were no reports of Snowy Owls.

Many contributors commented on the state's water courses being largely frozen, but there was some open water and occasional concentrations of fowl. Due to the heavy snows, there were higher than usual numbers of animals along the roads, and as a result, scavenger birds had a good winter with the increased numbers of road kills.

It's always interesting to see what rareties show up and this last winter Colorado had a few: a Little Blue Heron was reported from Salida; a male European Wigeon was reported from Ft. Collins; a Gyrfalcon was reported from Crow Valley; Water Pipits were reported twice (1 near Vail and 1 on the Ft. Collins CBC); and a Curve-billed Thrasher was reported from the Division of Wildlife's Hanna Ranch Wildlife Management Area near Colorado Springs.

GREBES THROUGH BITTERNS: Red-necked Grebe- 1 was reported at Valmont Res (about the only open water in Boulder County) 28 Feb and details have been forwarded to the ORC(PM)...Horned Grebe- 5 at Valmont Res 20 Dec(PG/FH) ...Western Grebe- 2 wintered at Valmont Res(PM) with a high of 4 on 20 Dec(FH)...Pied-billed Grebe- 1 at Valmont Res 28 Jan but not seen again(PM); 1 on Roaring Fork 8 Feb(AL) and 1 wintered in the Grand Lake area(DAJ)...Great Blue Heron- the Loveland area had about 3 each month during the winter(IS) with 2 at Valmont Res 28 Jan but not seen again (PM); 1 wintered on the Roaring Fork(AL)...Little Blue Heron- 1 reported 3 miles west of Salida 15 Jan and details have been forwarded to the ORC(JP)...Black-crowned Night Heron- 1 reported on South Platte River 1 Jan(PE)...American Bittern - 1 was reported 10 Jan at Spring Creek (LM).

SWANS & GEESE: Whistling Swan- 1 undated report of probable sighting in the Grand Valley(HG) and 1 reported 27 Feb in Mesa County(RL)...Canada Goose- wintered in good numbers in the state with 300 at Valmont Res 7 Jan(MM) and 110 near Carbondale 7 Dec(AL)...White-fronted Goose- 1 reported 9 Feb on Prince Lake(RWh)...Snow Goose- 4 during Dec in Loveland area(IS)...Ross' Goose- 5 at MVNWR on 27 Feb(MTN).

DUCKS & MERGANSERS: Mallard- reported nearly statewide with high of 4000 at Jackson Res 13 Jan(MM); 2-4 wintered on Roaring Fork(AL,MB,RP); were scarce at Valmont Res until mid Feb(PM)...Gadwall- 3 remained at Grand Lake until Christmas(DAJ) and 3 spring arrivals were at Prince Lake #2 25 Feb(PM)...Pintail- 15-20 wintered near Carbondale(MB) and 50 were at Prince Lake #2 25 Feb(PM)...Green-winged Teal- 510 wintered on Colorado River near Silt (JM)...Cinnamon Teal- earliest reports were 1 on CF&I Lakes in Pueblo 27 Feb(BA) and 1 on Colorado River near Glenwood 28 Feb(MB)...European Wigeon- 1 male reported 15-17 Jan at Ft. Collins City Park Lake(RP,CB,CC,KS,DB)...American Wigeon- 20-30 wintered near Carbondale(MB)...Wood Duck-

only report was of 1 on Ft. Collins CBC...Redhead-first large spring flight reported was 350 at CF&I Lakes 23 Feb (BA)...Ring-necked Duck- only report indicated most common wintering duck at Valmont Res with up to 750 present(PM)...Canvasback- 20 at CF&I Lakes 27 Feb(BA)...Greater Scaup- 1 at Pueblo Res at Christmas(LCB) and 1 at CF&I Lakes 23 Feb (VT)...Lesser Scaup- 1 female wintered from 16 Dec at Shadow Mtn Lake(DAJ); 5 at Prince Lake #2 on 25 Feb(PM)...Common Goldeneye- wintered well on Colorado River with up to 100 present(JM); 150 at Grand Lake all winter(DAJ); reports of fewer numbers from east slope...Barrow's Goldeneye- several pairs on Colorado River 3 Dec(HHB) and 24 sighted on Colorado River near Glenwood 25/26 Feb(MB); 1 was seen on Lake Estes all Dec(VBG,MM)...Bufflehead- only reports were 1 at Grand Lake 28 Dec(DAJ) and 1 near Glenwood on Colorado River 4 Feb(MM)...Oldsquaw- 1 seen with B. Goldeneyes on Colorado River 25/26 Feb(MN)...Common Scoter- 2 near Silt 1 Dec with 1 female being killed by a hunter(RP)...Ruddy Duck- 2 on Glenwood CBC...Hooded Merganser- reports from both slopes with high of 6 at Valmont Res 7 Jan(MM)...Common Merganser- reports indicate this species as being scarce statewide except 400 total in Boulder County...Red-breasted Merganser- most were from the Boulder County area with 7 reported.

HAWKS, EAGLES & FALCONS: Goshawk- only report was of a single bird at Red Feather Lakes 25 Feb(AJC)...Sharp-shinned Hawk- reports of this species mostly from urban areas where they were feeding on small birds at feeders; 10 throughout period in Loveland(IS)...Cooper's Hawk- undated report of 1 bird in Roaring Fork Valley(MB)...Red-tailed Hawk- wintered in good numbers with Pueblo area "normal"(BA) and 26 during period reported in Loveland up about 25% from previous year(IS); 9 reported on west slope...Rough-legged Hawk- 77 reported for period with 25 in Boulder County(MM)...Ferruginous Hawk- 1 at Pawnee National Grassland 14 Jan(TB,AH) and total of 10 reported by IS, up from 2 last winter...Golden Eagle- 10 contributors reported a total of about 55 nearly statewide; MTN reported a "high concentration" south of Alamosa in Jan but no other details were available...Bald Eagle- west slope aerial surveys netted the highest counts with 30 on a number of rivers 3 Jan(DO,JE) and 80 in Mesa County total during period(RL); statewide about 150 were reported...Marsh Hawk- very few reported other than on CBC; "notable for its absence"(EW)...Osprey- reports of 3 individuals during period with 1 at Table Mtn 7 Jan(MM)...Gryfalcon- 1 sighted 27 Jan at Crow Valley(BJ,JC)...Prairie Falcon- "wintered well on east slope"(BA) with few reports from west slope...Peregrine Falcon- the only report had 1 at Garden of the Gods, Colo Spgs 19 Jan(JRW)...American Kestrel- 12 in Boulder County during Jan/Feb(MM).

GALLINACIOUS SPECIES: Blue Grouse- total of 9 reported with 7 on 6 Jan near Boulder(PG)...White-tailed Ptarmigan- this species is apparently doing well with 98 on

Guanella Pass during winter; 40% being young produced last year(CB)...Sage Grouse- 9 near Meeker 20 Jan; 32 on 26 Jan near Delaney Buttes(DAG,RT)...Bobwhite- only report indicated 13 on 19 Dec near Sterling(WWB)...Gambel's Quail- only report was of 100 in Mesa County with no dates given (KG)...Ring-necked Pheasant- 2 near Table Mtn 14 Feb for only report(CM)...Turkey- 16 near Buena Vista early Dec (JP) and 15 near Evergreen during Jan(WWB).

CRANES THROUGH COOT: Whooping Crane- first bird at MVNWR 20 Feb a week earlier than last year with 4 at the refuge by 28 Feb; 2 with 3000 Sandhill Cranes south of Alamosa Refuge but no date given(MTN)...Sandhill Crane- 80 migrants at MVNWR 15 Feb with 7500 by 28 Feb(MTN)...Virginia Rail- 2 at Sawhill Ponds 10 Dec(MM) and 1 on Wheatridge Greenbelt 7 Jan(PR)...American Coot- very scarce this winter but returned to Roaring Fork area on 20 Feb "right on time"(AL).

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS: Killdeer- only 2 reports for winter with high of 9 on 18 Feb near Carbondale(AL)...Common Snipe- 1 southeast of Lyons on 6 Jan(MM)...Spotted Sandpiper- 1 reported from Mesa County but no date/location given(KG)...Greater Yellowlegs- KG also reported 1 in Mesa County with no date/location...Glaucous Gull- only 7 reported other than those seen on CBCs including 6 in Boulder County during period(PM)...Herring Gull- 26 reported(IS) which is about half of last year's total; 1 at Valmont Res 7 Jan(MM)...California Gull- for the second year the only report of this species was 1 on the Denver CBC...Ring-billed Gull- only report was 500 at Valmont Res 7 Jan(MM)...Thayer's Gull- 1 adult and 2 probable first-winter birds at CCRA 11 Feb for the only report(PM).

DOVES AND OWLS: Rock Dove- usual numbers state-wide...Mourning Dove- only report was that the species wintered well in Mesa County(KG)...Roadrunner- 1 almost daily throughout period at residence in Colo Spgs from 10 Dec on(BR,MSp)...Barn Owl- 1 southeast of Longmont 31 Jan (BB)...Screech Owl- reports of only 3 this period including 1 being taken care of by a vet in Mesa County...Great Horned Owl- good numbers throughout its range with high of 20 for period(IS)...Pygmy Owl- only report was 1 at Red Rocks Park 1 Jan(BB)...Long-eared Owl- 4 reports totalling 8 birds including 4 at Fruita Cemetary but no dates given(KG)...Short-eared Owl- total of 7 reported including 6 near Wellington 2 Dec(JNS).

HUMMINGBIRD THROUGH HORNED LARK: Anna's Hummingbird- 1 very late fall bird at Grand Junction 6 Dec(HT); this is the bird reported in the Fall Season CFO Journal as being present from 19 Nov through 6 Dec...Belted Kingfisher- reports of 3 during Jan in Turkey Rock area northwest of Colo Spgs even though there was no open water(RW); a single bird was regularly seen all winter along Roaring Fork(AL, RP) and 1 was in Winter Park 12 Feb(DAJ)...Common Flicker-

very common with daily sightings in Boulder(MM); yellow shafted race common all winter in Glenwood Springs(MB,RP,MS)...Red-bellied Woodpecker- 1 very briefly at Colo Spgs feeder 4 Dec(EW)...Lewis' Woodpecker- 1 near Hygiene 8/9 Feb(VDi); 1 at Las Animas 17-19 Feb(JR)... Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- 1 seen regularly between 7 Dec & 10 Jan on west side of Colo Spgs for only report(JRW)...Hairy Woodpecker- 4 reports include 5 birds including daily sightings near Granby(DAJ)...Downy Woodpecker- about 50 reported during period with DAJ noting a surge since spring '78...Ladder-backed Woodpecker- a pair at Two Buttes Res 18 Feb(JR)... Northern Three-toed Woodpecker- 1 in Evergreen 30 Dec(WWB) and 2 on Ft. Collins CBC...Horned Lark- reported in large numbers including 5000 near Raymer 3 Feb(PM).

JAYS THROUGH DIPPER: Gray Jay- unspecified number near Gilman & Vail with no date given for only report(JM) ...Blue Jay- IS reported 156 during period up from 23 the year before; Blue x Steller's Jay- 1 at Granby all winter (DAJ) ...Steller's Jay- reported in good numbers with 27 near Glenwood Springs 17 Feb(JM)...Scrub Jay- only report was of 3 near Silt all winter(RP)...Black-billed Magpie- daily in Boulder(MM); reported from areas of heavy snow where road-kill animals were common...Common Raven- seen regularly around Eagle all winter(JM)...Common Crow- daily on CU Campus(MM); 50 near Avon 8 Feb but not after(JM)... Clark's Nutcracker- JF had 4 at his feeders near Eagle but no dates given; 15 through winter in Grand Lake area(DAJ)... Black-capped Chickadee- 15-20 all winter near Silt(RP); good numbers around Granby(DAJ)...Mtn Chickadee- small numbers in Gilman/Vail(JM)...Plain Titmouse- 2 feeder birds near Eagle(no dates)(JF)...Common Bushtit- reported in fair numbers with high of 30 together 2 Dec/16 Feb in west Colo Spgs(JRW)...White-breasted Nuthatch- few reports of this species, however 2 wintered near Carbondale and were in good numbers around Granby(DAJ)...Red-breasted Nuthatch- only report was 1 near Boulder 17 Dec(BB,CB)...Pygmy Nuthatch- 20 near Betasso Preserve 27 Jan(MM); reported in good numbers in its habitat(JRW,DAJ)...Brown Creeper- 2 on CU campus(MM) and good numbers in Colo Spgs all winter(MSp) ...Dipper- none reported on Colo River(JM); 1 seen often on Boulder Creek(MM); 1 on South Fork of the South Platte River below Buffalo 20 Jan even though there was only a small area of open water(RW).

WRENS THROUGH STARLING: Winter Wren- 1 reported around Loveland during Dec(IS)...Bewick's Wren- 2 reported from Mesa County but no dates given(KG) and 2 at Two Buttes Res 18 Feb with 1 singing(JR)...Long-billed Marsh Wren- 2 near Ridgeway 1 Dec(JRG)...Canyon Wren- only report was 1 in Mesa County with no dates given(KG)...Mockingbird- 1 on Denver CBC...Gray Catbird- seen regularly from 17 Nov through 18 Jan at Colo Spgs feeder(GB,MSp)...Brown Thrasher - 1 in NE Colo Spgs for a week in early Dec(RAF) ...Curve-billed Thrasher- 1 at Hanna Ranch Colo Spgs Wildlife Area 28 Jan(LG,PA)...American Robin- wintered over in

good numbers with 86 in Boulder(MM) and 117 on Eagle CBC... Varied Thrush - 1 bird seen 3 times in early Dec in Boulder (AG)...Mtn Bluebird- 1 at Rifle Airport 3 March for only report...Townsend's Solitaire- reports indicate a good number wintered in usual habitat common near Glenwood Springs all winter(MB) and 5-6 each month around Granby (DAJ)...Golden-crowned Kinglet- 7 on CU campus between 29 Nov and 4 Jan(MM)...Ruby-crowned Kinglet- 2 near Boulder 17 Dec(FA)...Water Pipit- this rare winter bird visited twice this winter with 7 above Vail at 12000' 27 Feb (details forwarded to ORC)(CG) and one on Ft. Collins CBC...Bohemian Waxwing- wintered in erratic flocks around the state including 75 in Boulder area in Jan (MM); 50 around Carbondale 27 Jan(MS) and 200 around Colo Spgs all winter(MSp)...Cedar Waxwing- 12 on CU campus in early Dec(MM)...Northern Shrike- 4 reports indicated 9 birds were sighted including 2 at Carbondale in late Feb(MS,MB)...Loggerhead Shrike- 5 reported during period from Pueblo area "above average"(BA) for only report...Starling-as usual.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS: Yellow-rumped Warbler- 2 undated sightings (Audubon's race) from Mesa County (KG) & 3 Audubon's race on CU campus on 29 Nov(MM)... Wilson's Warbler- 1 dead bird found in Wheatridge on 27 Dec...House Sparrow- commonly sighted but rarely reported ...Western Meadowlark- only report was total of 54 in Boulder area during period(MM)...Red-winged Blackbird- wintered in large numbers with 10,000 east of Longmont 13 Jan(MM); a surprising 20 at Minturn 12 Dec and seen occasionally in Jan/Feb(JM)...Rusty Blackbird- 6 north of Boulder Res & 8 at Haystack Mtn(BB) 6 Jan...Brewer's Blackbird- 75 in Boulder County 6 Jan(MM)...Common Grackle- 1 reported at Westcliffe 27 Dec for a rare sighting for the area even in summer(VR,BA,LCB).

FINCHES THROUGH SNOW BUNTING: Cardinal- an unusual pair near Lafayette was reported but with no dates or details; and the male wintered(SHP)...Black-headed Grosbeak - 1 on Lake Isabel CBC which represents area's first winter record...Evening Grosbeak- 2 at Evergreen 24 Feb represent "lowest in area in 14 years"(WWB), but a "big flock" was near Carbondale 28 Feb(AL)...Purple Finch- 4 females just east of Pueblo 23 Dec(LCB,DS,VT)...Cassin's Finch- 4 reports totalled 25/30 birds...House Finch- daily in Boulder(MM) and near Silt(RP) for only reports...Pine Grosbeak- 11 on Eagle CBC and some commonly seen around Granby all winter(DAJ)...Rosy Finches- commonly reported in mountains with Brown-capped being predominant; reports of rosy finches as low as 6300'(MSp)...Pine Siskin- only reports were 1 at Glenwood Springs 14 Dec(MS) and 35 in Boulder 23 Feb(PW) ...American Goldfinch- only report was of 20 in Mesa County on an unspecified date(KG)...Lesser Goldfinch- KG also reported 10 from Mesa County...Red Crossbill- 4-5 near Alma 18 Feb(CLC) and 5 at Granby 3 Dec (DAJ)...Green-tailed Towhee- 1 at Glenwood Springs 14-25 Dec

(NS)...Rufous-sided Towhee- 3 at feeders all winter near Carbondale(RP)...Brown Towhee- 20 in Cottonwood & Baca Canyons 18 Feb(JR)...Dark-eyed Junco- common all winter on west slope with "Oregon" race being the most common...Tree Sparrow- 51 reported during winter form Boulder County (MM)...Harris' Sparrow- only report was 1 at Sawhill Pond 10 Dec(MM)...White-crowned Sparrow- seemed to winter well; 8 all winter at Ft. Collins(RR, AC)...White-throated Sparrow- 3 reports indicated 5 birds; 1 at Colo Spgs Solar Trails Center early Dec(MSP); 1 in west Colo Spgs during snow storm 30 Dec(JRW) and 3 in Boulder 2 Dec with 1 present all winter(PW)... Fox Sparrow- 1 on Ft. Collins CBC...Lincoln Sparrow- 1 on Denver CBC...Swamp Sparrow- more commonly seen along Arkansas River from Pueblo to Rocky Ford in groups of up to 7(BA)...Song Sparrow- returned to Carbondale area 20 Feb and started singing 28 Feb(AL)...McCown's Longspur- 4 on Denver CBC...Lapland Longspur- 4 reports totalling about 400 birds including 250 at Raymer 3 Feb(PM); 1 trapped and banded during heavy snow at Pueblo and same bird took refuge in trap 10 minutes later after being pursued by a N. Shrike...Chestnut-collared Longspur- 3 on Denver CBC...Snow Bunting- "none in NW Colorado"(HNB); 3 other reports totalling 170 birds including 150 at Pawnee National Grassland 13 Jan (MM).

INITIALED OBSERVERS: Bob Andrews(BA), Peggy Abbott(PA), L.C. Binford(LCB), Hartley H. Bloomfield(HHB), George Burhard(GB), Winston William Brockner(WWB), Clait Braun(CB), Mark Bosch(MB), Bruce Bosley(BB), Alex Cringan(AC), Charles L. Campbell(CLC), George Canny(GC), Charles Chase(CC), John Colvin(JC), Alex & June Cringan(AJC), Ann Cooper(ACo), Virginia Dionigi(VDi), John Ellenberger(JE), Patty Echelmeyer(PE), R.A. Fisher(RAF), Jerry Fedrizzi(JF), Charles Groesbeek(CG), Lynn Grace(LG), Vivian & Bill Gilbert(VBG), Howard Green(HG), Kristin Graves(KG), Peter Gent(PG), J. R. Guadagno(JRG), Freeman Hall(FH), Paul Hegdal(PH), Bruce Johnson(BJ), Nyla Kladder(NK), Ann Loughridge(AL), Ron Lambeth(RL), Ann Means(AM), Mike Manson(MM), Peter Moulton(PM), Jack Merchant(JM), Charyl Michel(CM), Melvin T. Neil(MTN), Dwight Owens(DO), Judy Porrata(JP), Ruth Parkinson(RP), Steve & Helen Pattee(SHP), Ron Ryder(RR), Joseph Rigli(JR), Beryl Ritchie(BR), Jack Reddall(JR), Paul Rechel(PR), J & N Sedgwick(JNS), Werner & Pat Stiefel(WPS), Irm Sparks(IS), Mary Stewart(MS), Mahlon Speers(MSp), Van Truan(VT), Roger Trout(RT), Helen Traylor(HT), Van Remsen(VR), Elinor Wills(EW), Roberta Winn(RW), Ruth Wheeler(RWh), Doug & Judy Ward(DJW), Jim & Rosey Watts(JRW), Pat Wheat(PW).

ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCATIONS: Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee(ORC), Cherry Creek Recreation Area(CCRA), Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge(MVNWR), Pawnee National Grassland(PNG).

1979 COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNTS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Baca County	?	Chuck Wagner, Pritchett	523-6410
Black Forest	Sun Dec 16	Dick Beidleman, Colo. Spgs.	473-6202
Blue Mesa	?	Theo Colborn, Gunnison	641-2747
Bonny Reservoir	Sat Dec 29	Dan Pinkham, Hale	354-7305
Boulder	Sun Dec 16	Barry Knapp, Boulder	494-8390
Colorado Spgs.	Sat Dec 15	Charles Campbell, Colo. Spgs.	471-9346
Denver	Sat Dec 15	Mary Jane Schock, Denver	922-3144
Durango	Sat Dec 29	Elva Fox, Durango	247-5890
Evergreen - Idaho Springs	Sat Dec 29	Bill Brockner, Idaho Spgs.	674-4851
Fort Collins	Sat Dec 22	Ron Ryder, Fort Collins	482-8089
Grand Junction	Sun Dec 16	Mary Fischer, Grand Jct	242-7978
Greeley	Sat Dec 15	Gretchen Cutts, Greeley	353-8373
Gunnison	?	Don Radovich, Gunnison	641-0793
Hotchkiss	Sun Dec 23	Theo Colborn, Gunnison	641-2747
Lake Isabelle	?	Dave Silverman, Rye	
Longmont	Sat Dec 15	Virginia Dionigi, Hygiene	776-2609
Monte Vista NWR	Wed Dec 19	Milton Suthers, Alamosa	589-2119
North Park	Fri Dec 28	John Wagner, Walden	723-4676
Nunn	Sat Dec 29	Clait Braun, Ft. Collins	493-2841
Ohio City	Sun Dec 16	Patrice Boyd, Pitkin	641-1704
Pikes Peak	Mon Dec 31	Mahlon Speers, Colo. Spgs.	632-6148
Pueblo	Sat Dec 22	Dave Griffiths, Pueblo	584-3859
Pueblo Res.	Sat Dec 15	Jerry Ligon, Pueblo	564-4985
Roaring Fork River Valley	?	Ann Loughridge, Carbondale	
Rocky Mountain National Park	Sat Dec 15	Ron Ryder, Fort Collins	482-8089
San Luis Valley	?	Terry McLoughry, Alamosa	589-5284
Steamboat Spgs.	Sat Dec 15	Anselm Dines, Steamboat Spgs.	879-5284
Weldona - Fort Morgan	Fri Dec 28	Dave Hutchinson, Loveland	667-8413
Westcliffe	Fri Dec 28	Van Truan, Pueblo	547-3735

BULLETIN BOARD

BALD EAGLE CENSUS

The United States Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with state and other federal agencies, is conducting its annual census of Bald Eagles wintering in Colorado. The census will be held during a two-week period, tentatively scheduled for January 2-16. It is a statewide effort, involving a combination of aerial and ground surveys, and birders' sightings. The information needed for each sighting is: number of birds of each plumage (adult or immature), location, time of day, observer(s), weather conditions, and a brief description of what the eagles were doing (roosting, feeding, flying, soaring).

Sightings should be reported to one of the following: (1) Bob Meese, BLM NE Resource Area Office, 10200 W. 44th AVE., Wheatridge, CO 80033, Phone 234-4988; (2) Timms Fowler, BLM District Office, 3080 E. Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212, Phone 275-7494; (3) Brandon Grebence, P.O. Box 248, Craig, CO 81625, Phone 824-3417.

BIRD STUDY-SKIN PREPARATION CLINIC

Charlie Chase, curatorial assistant in the Zoological Collections Department of the Denver Museum of Natural History, will host a free bird skin preparation clinic on Saturday, January 26 at 9:00 AM sharp. He will train participants in skinning and preparation techniques for bird study-skins. The Museum will provide specimens. Reservations may be made by calling the Zoological Collections Department at 575-3911.

AOU ANNUAL MEETING

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, August 11-15, 1980. An interesting program of scientific papers, lectures, exhibits, and tours is planned. The public is invited. For information about the local arrangements write Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80523. For information about the program of papers, write Dr. Kendall Corbin, Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. 55455.

C.F.O. Field Trip Report

Fifty birders participated in our October 7 hawk watch from Dakota Ridge, north of Boulder. The wrong-direction west wind reduced the total number of raptors seen, but seven species did soar by: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, an excellent look at a female Merlin, Northern Harrier, several Red-tailed Hawks, a Ferruginous, and a mature Golden Eagle, just fifty feet overhead. Another unidentified falcon, probably a Prairie, zipped by, plus flocks of migrating Mountain Bluebirds. A Great Horned Owl, perched in a Ponderosa 200 feet down the slope, counted birders all morning. Also seen: Rock Wrens, Mountain Chickadees, Common Flickers, Townsend's Solitaires, and a Hairy Woodpecker.

Best access to the ridge is through the Boulder Greenbelt area (marked by signs on the fence) west of U.S. 36 and just north of town.





Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

Ellen Klaver

CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

November 10 Chatfield Reservoir. Frank & Jan Justice,
Full day. leaders. (936-4547). Meet at Bear Valley
Shopping Center, West of May D & F at 8:00 AM
or at the West Gate of Chatfield Reservoir at
3:30 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.

December 15 Christmas Counts. A complete schedule of
through 30 Colorado Christmas counts will be published
(to Jan 1?) in the next issue of CFO Journal.

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.