

# *C.F.O. Journal*

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



Volume 14, Number 1

Winter 1980



## C.F.O. JOURNAL

Published 4 times a year by the Colorado Field Ornithologists, c/o Camille Cummings, 1924 N. County Rd. 17, Berthoud, CO 80513. Controlled Circulation postage paid at Berthoud, Colorado.

## OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

*President:* Elinor Wills, 540 Asbury Pl., Colorado Springs, CO 80906; *Vice President:* Freeman Hall, 305 Bellvue Dr., Boulder, CO 80302; *Executive Secretary:* Camille Cummings, PO Box 109, Berthoud, CO 80513; *Treasurer:* Judd Sundine, 5325 Garland Arvada, CO 80002; *Directors:* David Alles, Longmont; Walter D. Graul, Northglenn; Nyla Kladder, Grand Junction; Ronald A. Ryder, Fort Collins; Bruce Webb, Boulder.

## CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Robert Andrews (chairman), Denver; Dave Griffiths, Pueblo; Edward Hallowed, Fort Collins; Harold Holt, Denver; Peter Moulton, Longmont; Richard Stransky, Durango.

## CFO JOURNAL STAFF

*Co-Editors:* Barry Knapp, 4695 Osage Dr., Boulder, CO 80303; Bruce Webb, EPO Biology, Univ. of Colo., Boulder, CO 80309. *Editorial Assts.:* Jeanne Conry, Peter Gent, Mark Holmgren, Peter Moulton, Betsy Webb, Pat Wheat.

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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable at the beginning of each year), including a subscription to CFO JOURNAL: Sustaining, \$100; Supporting, \$25; Contributing, \$10; Regular, \$5. Dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership inquiries and renewals should be addressed to Judd Sundine, Treasurer, 5325 Garland, Arvada, CO 80002. Send change of address to Camille Cummings, PO Box 109, Berthoud, CO 80513.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
From the Editors.....	2
Notice of the 18th Annual C.F.O. Convention.....	3
Second DMNH/CFO Taxonomy Clinic by Allan R. Phillips and Mark Holmgren.....	4
Complete Bylaws of the Colorado Field Ornithologists by Freeman Hall and Robert W. Andrews.....	11
Supporting, Contributing and New Members in 1979.....	23
Calendar of Field Trips and Events.....	24

Cover Illustration: Prairie Falcon - by Ellen Klaver

FROM THE EDITORS

With this issue we begin year two of the new format. We intend to feature different artists' works on each cover. This issue we have Eller Klaver's Prairie Falcon soaring above the Pawnee Buttes. Also note Ellen's fine Black-billed Magpie. Many of us working on the Journal hope this will become the accepted logo of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. What bird more typifies both Eastern and Western Colorado. Haven't you been asked by a non-birder "What is that beautiful black and white bird with the long tail?"

By now all CFO members have received notice of the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 24-25 at Chautauqua. Be sure to respond promptly if you plan to attend.

Special thanks to our new members in 1979. With printing costs spiraling upward, we constantly look for ways to avoid a dues increase. We haven't raised dues in several years but may need to soon. With more members, our dues increase would be smaller.

Correction - The editors overlooked the corrected Treasurers report. The Foothills Audubon Club contribution was \$162.00 not \$150.00 as printed in Volume 13 #4. Please note this change and its effect on the CFO balance.

Field Trips - We must point out that the CFO emphasizes educational events. Please note the Pawnee Grasslands trip by Bill Ervin, a University of Colorado graduate student studying grassland birds. This trip should be one of our best yet.

The CFO will be involved with Field Trips at the August 11-15 American Ornithologists Union convention in Ft. Collins. If you would like to help some of the 600 people attending we can use volunteers at tables, book sales and general advice as to where they can see certain birds. More on this at the CFO Convention.

Often we are asked how the CFO operates. How do we elect officers? How does the Official Records Committee operate? We are publishing the rules of the organization -- the CFO Bylaws. You might wish to bring them with you to the Annual CFO Business Meeting on May 24th.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST'S  
18TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, AT HISTORIC  
CHAUTAUQUA PARK IN BOULDER  
24 AND 25 MAY 1980

PROGRAM (subject to change): Final program at Registration Desk.

Saturday, 24 May

- 7:30 - 11:30 AM Registration Art display and Booksales - Community House
- 8:00 - 11:00 Local birding trips for early arrivals, or
- 9:00 - 11:00 Birding the Chautauqua grounds, and Bluebell Canyon for later arrivals
- 11:00 - 12:15 Lunch

Afternoon

- 12:30 - 4:00 PM Paper Session in Community House: Talks include status update on Colorado Boreal Owls; Flammulated Owls in Gunnison County; Identification of Spizella Sparrows; Functions of the Official Records Committee; and other interesting topics.
- 5:00 - 6:30 Annual Banquet, Buffet Style, Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of C.F.O. Awards.
- 7:00 - 8:00 Scheduled Entertainment
- 8:00 - 9:00 No Host Fireside Social Hour in Chautauqua Community House.

Sunday, 25 May Field Trips Day

- 6:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast and Lodging Checkout
- 8:00 - One-day field trip leaves for Boulder County birding hotspots and/or Barr Lake.  
(or)  
Two-day field trip leaves for Julesberg (E. Colorado) for eastern species. This trip involves Sunday and Monday. Camping or self-arranged lodging.
- 3:30 - 4:30 Final compilation for the "die-hards" at the Community House.

Terry Root, Chairwoman, CFO Convention  
P. O. Box 3124  
Eldorado Springs, CO 80025

THE SECOND DMNH/CFO TAXONOMY CLINIC  
with DR. ALLAN R. PHILLIPS  
1 June 1979

Cosponsored by:

THE DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

and

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Transcribed and edited by

Mark Holmgren

Section of Birds  
Carnegie Museum

4400 Forbes  
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania 15213

PART II Catharus thrushes, Toxostoma thrashers, Passerina buntings

Q: I understand you were looking for Veerys on your recent trip to southern Colorado. Are you working on some questions concerning Veerys specifically?

ARP: I'm working on all the birds I can work on, as I mentioned previously, but yes, I want to find out which race of Veery is down there. The southeastern red race of Veery (Catharus fuscescens fuscescens) is found all over the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada. There is one dark race in Newfoundland and another one or two which extend from western Ontario clear across the north and down to here. There are two records of the eastern Veery from Colorado, but I'd like to know if they both really came from Colorado and I've never been able to find out. The eastern race is quite pale reddish above with a more faintly spotted throat and breast than the dark races, pretty much like the Peterson illustration (A field Guide to Western Birds). This coloration can vary with the season. I've seen molting Veerys taken in August on which the new feathers look like western Veerys, the old ones like eastern Veerys. The grayest race is the one found in Idaho and Montana and possibly extending down here. Now whether or not the birds that breed in Colorado are as gray or not is one of the points I'm very interested in finding out. Each time I saw a thrush in the heavy sagebrush that I thought was a Veery, it turned out to be a Swainson's Thrush. I would still be thinking I was seeing a lot of Veerys there if I hadn't shot them. It's the only way to know what you are doing. The 30th of May is awfully late to be having a heavy migration of this Rocky Mountain type of Swainson's Thrush going through. We appear to be having a very late spring. Since all western races of Veery are dark and

relatively dull, there is the possibility of confusion with some Swainson's Thrushes. But the Veery's key character is the distinctly redder upper surface than the sides and flanks, which are gray. This is a species field mark. Some Swainson's Thrushes are redder above than some Veerys.

The field guides tell you that the Hermit Thrush has a reddish tail and this is true, but in late summer, when the birds are getting faded, about the only way to see the red is to spread the tail and get a good look at the base of the rectrices. The way you tell an eastern from a western Hermit Thrush almost at a glance, if they are in half-decent plumage, is by the color of the sides and flanks; washed with reddish brown in the eastern, plain grayish in the western. There are only one or two Colorado records for the eastern Hermit Thrush, one of which is a bird that was shot or picked up in February in Denver's City Park. Hermit Thrushes with red flanks are valuable additions to the Denver Museum collection. If anyone is able to collect birds and they happen to net one in the fall, we would appreciate it if you would save it for the museum. You see, there is more to ornithology than identifying birds down to the correct species. This is one of the things I've been fighting for all my life -- to get a little more depth to ornithology.

Q: In Jon Dunn's article which appeared in the C.F.O. Journal [summer, 1978], he says the Swainson's Thrush has "rich golden-buff flanks" which is not what we're seeing in these specimens.

ARP: What he's talking about and perhaps exaggerating is the north-west coastal race of Swainson's Thrush, Catharus ustulatus ustulatus, which breeds in British Columbia and Alaska, and is a common migrant in California. The local breeding race in California is not so bright, and the eastern races, since they are all quite dull, are practically indistinguishable from a Veery on flank color alone. He is talking about a particular race in his area. That field mark does not hold for the more eastern races.

Q: How do you separate Gray-cheeked from Swainson's Thrushes?

ARP: Gray-cheeked lacks the complete eye ring. There may be a slight tendency to a pale area above the eye, but it's not continuous. The whole head is about as gray as the dorsal surface. Now in Swainson's, the dorsal surface is grayer than the sides of the head; there's a warm, buffy suffusion through the cheek; and a complete clear buffy eye ring -- narrow sometimes, but it's there. You have to look closely. This separates the two species on migration, when not singing.

Q: Do all Hermit Thrushes show a rusty tail?

ARP: The Hermit Thrush is identified by the contrast between the reddish on the tail and the duller-color back. All of them show a tendency to reddening on the tail, but it's difficult to find in the race around Monterey, California, for example.

Q: Do Gray-cheeked Thrushes ever show the tail reddening?

ARP: Not that I know of. I've never seen one which shows it. But Swainson's Thrushes can, yes. Often times you can see a slight reddening on the tails of Swainson's Thrushes in the hand if you look closely and it is definitely evident in the Pacific coastal races, but not as marked as on Hermit Thrushes generally. This is a comparative matter. It helps to see the bird alive and you then can see the tilting up of the tail (Hermit Thrush) or hear the call note or song. That clinches identification. The northwest coastal race of Swainson's Thrush originally was thought to be a race of the Veery. Henshaw in 1876 saw the nest and eggs and connected it to the Olive-backed or Swainson's form. They grade into one another. The only good field characters for the different species are the song; the breeding ecology in summer, plus the appearance of the bird, are fairly diagnostic if you really get a good look. Any thrush in low country in the breeding season in Colorado is pretty sure to be a Veery. What is necessary is to know when migration begins and ends and this year you might be wrong as to when it ends. In winter the only thrush that occurs in the U.S. is the Hermit. Swainson's Thrushes are reported yearly on Audubon Christmas counts from half the U.S. No one yet to my knowledge has come up with a specimen substantiating this. The eastern race winters in South America. The Pacific coastal race winters in Mexico (north accidentally, I suspect, to Brownsville, Texas). I suspect some of these may stray to the east, but they are not the races found breeding in those states. Nothing irks me more than to read the American Bird's regional editor's note following the report of a Swainson's Thrush: "all field marks noted". What are the "field marks" of Swainson's Thrush? I want to know what was actually seen. All these records are highly doubtful as Swainson's Thrush. They are Hermit Thrushes. By my standards, which some people might call old fashioned, the publication of new range records without photographs or specimens to back it up is irresponsible. Dr. Alexander Wetmore once said, "If a given bird occurs in a certain area, eventually someone will come up with a specimen. If it does not, we do not want it on our list." Reports of sightings can be important, but they must be reported with the proper qualifications stating exactly what was seen. Let's not be too dogmatic about what it was we saw.

Q: Looking at these thrushes, there are some differences in bill colors. Can these be used to distinguish live birds?

ARP: That may well be but I have not investigated it. We took careful notes on the colors of the soft parts of the Swainson's Thrushes we took. I suspect there may be some characters there. This is something that ought to be looked into with live birds in the hand. The trouble is that we ornithologists who work on birds in the museum very frequently do not have as much experience with the live bird in the hand as we should. And many museum birds have no information on the label concerning soft part colors. A third problem is that colors are extremely difficult to compare visually. We have color guides, but they



cannot possibly account for the many shades and tonalities present in nature. They tend to fade in time and, of course, no two people see or express colors the same way.

An excellent example of the use of soft part colors is found in the work of one of Joe Marshall's students in Tucson working on thrashers. He found that the easiest way to tell Bendire's from Curve-billed Thrasher was by the pale base of the mandible, which is all dark to the base in the Curve-billed Thrasher. So there is still work to be done.

Q: You intimated that there could be a problem with Curve-billed and Bendire's Thrashers. The field guides lead you to believe that because of the differences in bill sizes and curvatures you wouldn't have much of a problem.

ARP: That's fine, but this is a matter of judgement. You don't have a millimeter ruler out there. The bills of females tend to be shorter and less decurved in both species. If you've got them in the hand side by side it's not too difficult to distinguish them. But a glimpse at a bird in the field is a different matter. By looking at the base of the bill underneath (which is cheating because you'll never get this good a look in the field) you can see that it is dark in Curve-billed and pale in the Bendire's. Call notes are very different, of course. The problem begins in dealing with juvenile birds. Juvenal-plumaged Bendire's have breast-spotting that is almost lanceolate; in the adult it is quite triangular. Adult Curve-bills very commonly have broadly triangular or even rounded spots. However, juvenile Curve-bills have breast-spots very like adult Bendire's and, of course, for a while their bills are also not fully grown nor do they show full adult curvature.

In adults there is also a difference in iris color which I think is pretty easy to tell in the field. In Bendire's it is lemon-yellow; in Curve-billed it is orangish-yellow.

Q: Dr. Phillips, what about tail spotting in the two species?

ARP: Well, in the first place Bendire's does have white in the tail in both adult and juvenal plumages. In the second place, it depends on what subspecies of Curve-bill you've got. There are no wingbars of any consequence in Bendire's. It must be remembered that thrashers undergo heavy feather beating in their habitats and frequently there is nothing left. The conditions I'm discussing are true of the ideal Bendire's Thrashers. Now looking at the Texas races of Curve-billed Thrasher (Toxostoma curvirostre oberholseri and celsum) we see white tail spots as well as some evidence of wingbars. The palmeri race of Curve-bill from the Tucson region west, and north to Wickenburg, shows no tail spots and no wingbars. It is interesting to note that this abundant but more western race of Curve-bill is the one that has been taken in Florida and also in Nebraska.

Q: Which race breeds in Colorado?

ARP: The breeding birds should be the same as those in Texas -- they should show spotted tails and wingbars. But without a specimen I can't be certain. By the way, there is a specimen of Long-billed Thrasher from Colorado taken by a fellow named Hersey at Barr, Colorado in May, 1906.

There has been so much confusion with the specimen records in terms of the inadequate and erroneous information placed on specimen labels. Some of the birds just could not have been taken when and where it says they were taken. Also, the transportation of caged birds contributes to the mess. If a bird has been kept in a cage this fact should show up in the claws. That's one reason for preserving a record specimen -- to see if there is evidence of elongation or deformation in the claws. If I take this second Colorado record for Painted Bunting and compare it with wild-taken buntings from North Carolina, you can see the claws are identically short. The plumage of suspected strays may show evidence of recent caging if one looks at the date of collection and the feather wear relative to other, wild specimens of comparable dates. If it shows very little feather wear then the bird had not recently been caged. This Painted Bunting appears to be a wild bird. What remains is to determine which race it belongs to. It should belong to the western (Passerina ciris pallidior), but with stragglers no laws apply. Very often those birds seen either very late or far out of range are individuals which bred and wandered from a distant source. Some examples of this are the Texas Varied Bunting (rather than the Arizona race) I observed in October in North-western Arizona or the red eastern Hermit Thrush in Denver City Park in February. Summer Tanagers found in Colorado and in California are often the eastern subspecies. All of this is discussed in the 1975 Western Birds article, "Why Neglect the Difficult?"

Q: How does the eastern adult male differ from the western adult male Painted Bunting?

ARP: The eastern bird (P. g. ciris) tends to be richer red and the western tends to be paler, pinker red. This bird appears to belong to the pallidior race, but to be absolutely sure I'll have to take it to the U.S. National Museum in Washington and compare it to a more extensive series.

Q: Can we talk about female-plumaged buntings and how to tell them apart?

ARP: Well, first of all you've got to be able to age the birds because some of these characters change as the year progresses. Juvenile buntings through the first year (and probably Blue Grosbeaks -- they are after all just a Passerina with a great big bill) can be recognized by the brownish primary coverts until about July or August of their second year. These are simply unchanged juvenal feathers. In August, female Lazuli and Indigo Buntings cannot always be separated by the presence

of wingbars alone. The winter plumage of Indigo tends to show wingbars more than in spring because juvenal feathers tend to fade and then wear very rapidly.

The Indigo bunting has heavier streaking underneath than a comparably plumaged Lazuli Bunting, but one must consider the time of year at which one looks. A juvenal-plumaged Lazuli has the same amount of streaking as the adult female Indigo would have at a different (or perhaps the same) time of year. By spring the female Lazuli shows a more solid buffy breast wash, without streaking, than does the Indigo. Adult female Lazuli have a blue rump in spring with a bluish cast to the primaries and rectrices.

Q: What would you need to convince you that together they are a single species?

ARP: More free hybridization; that is, less tendency of each to mate with its own kind. I listed them as single species in Birds of Arizona, but now I'm not so sure. There is a degree of judgement that goes into these decisions. You get some species that "hybridize" regularly, like the Blue- and Golden-winged Warblers. (I should use "hybridize" in the classic sense here; species hybridize, subspecies cross. Since I have called the Indigo and Lazuli Buntings one species, then they would "cross".) You get those that hybridize very occasionally or almost accidentally, like Mourning and Canada Warbler; but there are those that hybridize almost freely like the Blue- and Golden-winged Warblers, but that don't lose their distinctive songs or their specific identity. These two are probably each good species as taxonomists maintain. They just have the embarrassing habit of hybridizing. I base my judgment of the buntings primarily on voice. There is a slight difference in song between Lazuli and Indigo. And there are other characters which can be used in judging such questions: nest construction and placement, eggs, juvenal plumages and plumage sequences.

Q: Can we also discuss female Varied Bunting as compared to the other two we've already talked about?

ARP: We have such a poor collection of female Varied Buntings that it will be difficult, but I'll try to tell you the differences. By looking at the wing formula you can see that the Varied has a more rounded wing than the Lazuli. Find the 9th (outermost) primary; the outermost can always be told (in flying birds) by its very narrow outer edge of the outer web -- there's almost nothing there. Primary No. 8 has a much broader edge toward its base, at least. In Varied, 8 is a bit shorter than 6 or 7, pretty nearly equal to 5, and not much longer than 4, while no. 9 is about equal to no. 3. Indigo and Lazuli no. 8, and even 9, are much longer than 5.

These wing formulae do not change seasonally except, of course, when these primaries molt. The bill of Varied has a more down-curved culmen and it's shorter than Lazuli, as is also the wing within age/sex classes. The breast is darker and

duller and the brown extends down onto the belly in the Varied. The belly is clear white in Lazuli. But again we have to deal with different races. My feeling is that all western female Varied Buntings are a rufescent-brown and all eastern females are a grayish-brown.

REFERENCE LITERATURE TO PARTS I AND II

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1957. Checklist of North American birds. fifth ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Baltimore, Md.
- Bailey, A.M., and R.J. Niedrach. 1965. The birds of Colorado. Denver Museum of Natural History.
- Dunn, J. 1977. Field notes: The genus Empidonax. Western Tanager, April - August. (reprinted C.F.O. Journal, winter, 1978).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1977. Field notes: Catharus thrushes. Western Tanager, September - November. (reprinted C.F.O. Journal, summer, 1978).
- Lanyon, W.E. and J. Bull. 1967. Identification of Connecticut, Mourning, and MacGillivray's Warblers. Bird-Banding 38: 187-194.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1978. Revision of the Myiarchus flycatchers of South America. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 161 (4): 427-628.
- Phillips, A.R. 1947. The races of Macgillivray's Warbler. Auk 64: 296-300.
- \_\_\_\_\_, J. Marshall and G. Monson. 1964. The birds of Arizona. Univ. Ariz. Press, Tucson.
- \_\_\_\_\_, M.A. Howe and W.E. Lanyon. 1966. Identification of the flycatchers of eastern North America with special emphasis on the genus Empidonax. Bird-Banding 37: 153-171.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and W.E. Lanyon. 1970. Additional notes on the flycatchers of eastern North America. Bird-Banding 41: 190-197.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1975a. Semipalmated Sandpiper: identification, migrations, summer and winter ranges. American Birds 29: 799-806.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1975b. Why neglect the difficult? Western Birds 6: 69-86.
- Ridgway, R. 1907-1919. The birds of North and Middle America: parts 4 through 8. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 50.
- Stein, R.C. 1963. Isolating mechanisms between populations of Traill's flycatchers. Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 107: 21-50.

## BYLAWS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

prepared by

Freeman Hall  
305 Bellevue  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

### I. Membership

1. Requirements. Any person or organization interested in the educational and scientific aspects of field ornithology may become a member on payment of dues.
2. Rights. All members have the right to receive the publication CFO Journal, to attend field trips and meetings of the society, and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each member of this society shall be entitled to one vote.
3. Classes and Dues. The classes of memberships in Colorado Field Ornithologists and annual dues required for each class shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. All memberships, except Life Membership, expire at midnight, the 31st of December, each year. Members who paid dues in the previous year will be sent the first CFO Journal issued in the current year. But unless or until they have paid dues for the current year, no more journals will be sent to them. Payment of dues at any time before October 1st will establish membership for the current year with subscription to the CFO Journal commencing on the date of payment. Back issues of the Journal for the current year will be furnished if available. Payment after October 1st will establish membership for the succeeding year, but all prerequisites of membership including subscription to the CFO Journal will start on date of payment.

### II. Board of Directors

1. Powers. The control of the property and the conduct of the business and administrative affairs of the Colorado Field Ornithologists shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The Board may delegate appropriate responsibility and authority to officers or committees to carry out specific duties.
2. Composition. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected Officers, six directors elected at large, and the Editor of the CFO Journal. Only members of the society in good standing shall be members of the Board.
3. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually, preferably at a time and place conveniently close to the Annual Meeting of the society, and at such other times as may seem indicated, on call of the Chairman. Such meetings may be in person, by telephone, by correspondence, or whatever means of communication the Chairman may find advisable.
4. Quorum. At any meeting of the Board, a quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

5. Emergency Meetings. Special meetings of the board may be called by the Chairman or any two members of the Board in case of emergency. Notice of such meetings shall be given to all members of the board, if possible, by whatever method seems feasible.

6. Removals. The Board of Directors may remove, for cause, Officers or Directors who are delinquent in their duties. Such action requires a vote of the majority of all members of the Board.

7. Appointments. The Board of directors may appoint Officers or Directors to fill a vacancy which may arise. Such appointment shall be by vote of the remaining members of the Board, even though less than a quorum. An Officer or Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the position being filled and until a successor is elected.

8. Compensation. No Officer or Director shall receive compensation for service to the society, but they may be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

### III. Officers

1. Titles. The Officers of the society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

2. Election and Term of Office. Officers shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. They shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected. They may be re-elected, but to no more than two consecutive terms in any one office, except that the Secretary and the Treasurer may serve no more than four years in any one office. They take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected.

3. President. The President shall be the chief executive of the society, the Chairman of the board of Directors, and a member ex-officio of all committees. He shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the Board. he directs and administers all affairs of the society and supervises all phases of its work, subject to the direction of the Board. The President shall, with the approval of the board, appoint chairmen of all committees. After completion of his term as President, he shall remain as a non-voting member of the Board for two years or until replaced by the next retiring President, whichever comes first.

4. Vice President. The Vice President shall, at the President's request, assist him in carrying out his duties. If the President shall be unable to serve, then the Vice President shall act as President in all respects.

5. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the society and of the Board of Directors. He shall keep the minutes of these meetings as well as the reports submitted by officers or committee chairmen and other such records as the society may have, and transmit them to his successor. He shall provide each member of the board of Directors with the minutes of the last meeting and with the agenda for the next meeting if such is available. He shall record the membership and changes of address, note those members in default, and keep the Editor

apprised of the membership to receive the CFO Journal. He should attempt to obtain new members of the society and to retain the membership of those who have become delinquent in their dues.

6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep the society's funds and securities and have custody of them in such bank or banks as are approved by the Board. He shall disburse the society's funds or its checks as the Board may direct or approve, taking proper vouchers therefor. The Treasurer shall render to the Board, whenever it may require, an account of his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the society, including all of its funds. The Treasurer shall be bonded, when requested by the Board, in an amount determined by the Board. If the Treasurer shall for any reason be unable to sign checks, any one of the following officers shall sign: President, Vice President, or Secretary. The signatures of these officers shall be registered as may be required to implement this provision.

#### IV. Directors

1. Number, Election, and Term. There shall be six Directors, elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years, so that two will be elected each year by the members present at the Annual Meeting. Directors may be re-elected to no more than two consecutive terms. They take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

#### V. Publications

1. General. The official periodical of the society is the CFO Journal. Special publications may also be issued from time to time. Publications are intended for both professional and amateur audiences. Papers are encouraged that are both understandable and useful to amateurs but at the same time make a significant contribution to the scientific literature. Highly technical papers and laboratory studies not bearing directly on field ornithology are not desirable. The Editor and Editorial Board offer encouragement and assistance to anyone, including inexperienced authors, to produce meaningful field studies and well prepared manuscripts.

2. Geographical Coverage. Published studies should be accomplished in, or have a direct importance to the following areas: Colorado and closely related, adjacent areas.

3. Content. In general, the content is restricted to papers based on field studies of birds, but the Editor has final decision as to what papers will be accepted. Topics include distribution, behavior, population dynamics, field identification, ecology, and field techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds. Conservation papers are limited to scientific studies (e.g., studies supporting preservation of habitat, studies of endangered species, and effects of pollution); pure discussion or notice of conservation matters will generally not be published. Site guides are generally not acceptable unless they also add significantly to previously published knowledge of bird distribution, status, or population in the area. Distributional papers that are local in content and would otherwise be published in a provincial journal are to be encouraged.

## VI. Editor

1. The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint an Editor of the CFO Journal.
2. Subject to Board approval, the Editor shall have the responsibility for the preparation and publication of the CFO Journal, and the establishment of criteria for submission, acceptance, and publication of materials in the CFO Journal. He shall appoint and direct members of the Editorial Board and any assistants as he sees fit, with the approval of the Board.
3. The Editor is a voting member of the Board of Directors. He shall continue in office at the discretion of the Board.

## VII. Committees

1. Establishment. The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint chairmen of committees as seems appropriate for the activities of the society. The terms of these chairmen begin as soon as appointed and continue as determined by the Board at the time of establishment.
2. Membership. These chairmen shall be members in good standing of the society, but need not be Board members or officers. The committee chairmen will appoint the other members of their committees who shall be members of the society unless approval for a non-member to serve is given by the Board. Any member of a committee may be removed by the board whenever in their judgement the best interests of the society will be served.
3. Rules. Each committee may adopt rules for its own government and procedures not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors. Because of the special nature of responsibilities of the Official Records Committee, the rules for this committee are incorporated as a part of these Bylaws.

### 4. Rules of the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee

prepared by  
Robert W. Andrews  
1390 S. Ivy Way  
Denver, Colorado 80224

#### I. Name

The name of this committee is the Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee, hereafter referred to as "the committee".

#### II. Duties

- A. The committee shall have three main functions of equal importance:
  1. To solicit, organize and maintain records, documentation, photographs, tape recordings, etc. and any other material relative to the birds of Colorado. Such records are main-



tained to serve as reference and research materials for professional and amateur ornithologists. Two duplicate sets of records will be maintained; one is to be kept by the Chairperson, and the other is to be deposited in the Department of Zoological Collections in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

2. To review reports of species new to the state or of rarity in part or all of Colorado, to offer an intelligent, scientifically-based opinion of the validity of these reports, and to maintain an official list of the birds recorded from Colorado. The opinions of the committee, along with a discussion of the reason for that opinion and the process by which it was arrived at, when applicable, will be regularly published in the CFO (Colorado Field Ornithologists) Journal. The official list of Colorado birds will be maintained in a single list, with the following information annotated for every species:
    - a. Whether the species is placed on the list on the basis of a specimen whose identification has been verified by a reputable ornithologist, a photograph that has been viewed and an opinion offered by a qualified professional or amateur ornithologist, a sight record that has previously been considered acceptable by the committee on the basis of its detailed written description, or other types of documentation.
    - b. If possible or feasible or applicable, the number of acceptable records from Colorado (divided among the above categories).
    - c. Summary of past and/or present breeding status in Colorado.
    - d. A notation indicating for which species the committee desires documentation, and which type of documentation.
  3. To disseminate, in conjunction with the CFO Journal, useful and pertinent material concerning the field identification of Colorado birds, in order to assist Colorado ornithologists to increase their knowledge and skill.
- B. The following is a statement of the philosophy behind the existence and operation of the committee: the committee exists to serve the Colorado Field Ornithologists, the professional and amateur ornithologists of Colorado, and to promote and help maintain a high degree of quality, integrity and professionalism in Colorado ornithology. All Colorado ornithologists should realize that in order for the committee to achieve these purposes, it needs the complete support of all interested persons in the state. The committee should be regarded as a logical and convenient central clearinghouse with regards to records pertaining to Colorado birds, and the CFO strongly encourages all ornithologists to use it as such. However, the committee should not regard itself, or be regarded by others as a binding, absolute arbiter in any of the matters in which it is involved. Individuals are free to independently pub-

lish in matters regarding any facet of Colorado birds, and the committee should welcome this as an alternate manner of contributing to Colorado ornithology. Individuals are free to dispute in the open literature, the published opinions of the committee, and vice versa.

### III. Responsibility

- A. The committee is responsible to the Officers and Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, through the President, for the proper performance of its duties.
- B. The committee will publish the results of its work in the CFO Journal.

### IV. Membership

- A. The committee shall consist of an indefinite number of members, divided into three categories, as described below, appointed by the President of the CFO.
- B. When a new member is to be appointed to the committee, the present members of the committee will confer as to their choice or choices. The Chairperson of the committee will inform the President of the committee's suggestions. In considering new members, the following general qualifications should be kept in mind:
  - 1. General knowledge of ornithology, specifically of Colorado birds.
  - 2. Experience and care in field identification.
  - 3. Place of residence, so that as far as possible, the Committee will have a balanced geographical representation.
  - 4. Acquaintance with other birders, so that the committee is not aloof from the rest of the ornithological community in Colorado.
  - 5. Personal integrity and willingness to serve.
- C. In case a member appears to be either unwilling or incapable of carrying out their part of the committee work, the President shall consult with the Directors of the CFO as to what action to take. In case the decision is to remove the member of the committee, the President will request the resignation of the member. Such request constitutes removal from the committee.
- D. The committee shall contain seven or more voting members.
  - 1. Voting members are those who evaluate and offer opinions (i.e., votes) on records of unusual or new species to Colorado.
  - 2. Voting members will serve on a rotational basis. Each member will serve for a period of three years, then take a mandatory

retirement of at least one year before he or she is eligible to serve again on the committee.

3. The committee shall have a chairperson (who is a voting member), and who shall attend all board meetings in a non-voting capacity (if necessary the chairperson may send a designate from the committee to a Board meeting). The Chairperson will serve for a period of three years, then take a mandatory retirement of at least three years before being eligible to serve again as Chairperson, and at least one year before being eligible to serve again on the committee as a regular voting member.
  4. In case the Chairperson finds it too difficult to perform the secretarial aspects of the committee work, a non-voting secretary may be appointed by the Chairperson to receive reports, send them to committee members, compile the opinions and do such other work as seems appropriate.
- E. When necessary or appropriate, advisory members shall serve on the committee who have significant expertise on a particular species or group of species. Such members will be considered voting members with regard to reviewal of records of those species. Such a member will serve indefinitely.
- F. When necessary or appropriate, the committee shall have an indefinite number of research members. When deemed necessary or desirable, the committee shall initiate, organize and operate, or solicit research projects or data with regard to any species of bird occurring in Colorado. Research members will be responsible for these activities, and collecting, maintaining and analyzing any records or data that arise from such activities of the committee. An example of some such activities (but not all) that are deemed suitable for the committee to promote are:
1. Solicit basic sightings of certain species and maintain a summary listing of such sightings. Such sightings consist of species, date, number seen, location, observer(s), etc. (but not written descriptions). Species that are not of sufficient rarity to warrant written descriptions, but which are sufficient interest to maintain a listing of all know sightings are those which are suitable for this activity.
  2. Maintain and update the CFO Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study.
  3. Organize or promote regular counts and censuses (spring, summer or fall counts, breeding bird or winter bird censuses, etc.). Such activities should follow established procedures if they exist (i.e., National Audubon Society or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service censuses). If such are not in existence, the committee shall formulate general procedures so that consistency is maintained.
  4. Make an effort to collect quantitative data on those species that occur in Colorado that are on the National Audubon Soci-

ety Blue-List, and to establish and maintain a Colorado Blue-List, and to organize and promote collection of data on those species.

5. To promote and encourage the formulation of local annotated status check-lists, for counties, latilongs or any other suitable area.
6. To act as a clearinghouse for information on any (and hopefully all) ongoing research projects or the research interests of professional and amateur ornithologists, so that all involved can be aware of who is doing what, where, on what species.
7. To organize or promote field work on critical bird habitats in Colorado.
8. Any other activity for which there is a demonstrated need or interest.

#### V. Meetings

- A. The committee will ordinarily hold one face-to-face meeting a year, at the annual meeting of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. A majority of the members will constitute a quorum.
- B. Other meetings may be held, if such seems indicated, on call of the Chairperson. In calling such meetings, the Chairperson will give the members adequate notice and an agenda.

#### VI. Procedures

- A. The majority of the work of the committee will be done by correspondence.
- B. Administrative matters may be brought up by any member of the committee, who should send copies of the same to all members. Correspondence should be continued until there is general agreement on the subject. If no agreement is reached, the matter should be brought up at the annual meeting for face-to-face discussion.

#### VII. Records

- A. The records of the committee should be maintained on standard forms. Such forms shall be made available for reporters for use in the submission of records. Reporters are encouraged, but not required, to submit their records on such forms.
- B. The committee shall maintain three solicitation categories:
  1. Full documentation (written description, photos, tape recordings, etc.) for all observations of those species in Colorado.
  2. Full documentation for only some observations of those species in Colorado. Species common in some parts of the state but extremely rare in other (large) parts of the state, species

common in some seasons but extremely rare in other seasons and species very easy to identify in some plumages but difficult in other plumages are those that fall into this category.

3. Basic sightings of all those species in Colorado in this category (species, date, number seen, location, observer(s), sex, age, etc. of bird, but not full written or photographic documentation). See also Section IV-F-1.
- C. These solititation categories shall be published in conjunction with the official state list, separately in the CFO Journal, and printed separately and mailed to a person requesting such information.
  - D. No absolute rules shall be established for the inclusion of species in the solicitation categories (except that all records should be within the boundaries of Colorado). The Chairperson of the committee, and those voting or research members deemed appropriate, shall decide on the list of species within each category, and they shall be reviewed and reformulated as is appropriate. Each species shall be individually considered as to whether or not it should be included in which, or any solicitation category. As a general criterion for consideration of inclusion on the full documentation categories, those species occurring four or fewer times per year in each of the immediately previous ten years, within Colorado (for category 1), or within certain areas of Colorado, certain seasons or certain plumages (for category 2) should be included.

#### VIII. Rendering of Opinions

- A. Since professional ornithologists are more qualified to judge specimens than are nonprofessionals, the committee will abide by the identifications of specimens made by professionals (except in cases where the origin of the specimen and not its identification is in doubt). Any specimens sent to the committee shall be forwarded to the Denver Museum of Natural History for identification and deposition.
- B. Photographic documentation shall be circulated through the committee as are sight records, and shall be rated as are sight records. When deemed necessary or appropriate, photographs shall be forwarded to experts inside or outside Colorado for their opinions. Whenever possible, original photographs shall be placed in the Denver Museum of Natural History's copy of the committee files.
- C. Sight records, within solicitation categories 1 and 2, shall be circulated through the committee for consideration. They should be rated by each member in a frank and unbiased manner, based on that member's best judgment with an open but rigorous mind. All sight records shall be categorized as follows:

- A. Submitted documentation supports the stated or claimed identification.
- B. Submitted documentation clearly indicates a misidentification was made.
- C. Submitted documentation is too brief or incomplete to allow its inclusion in either of the other two categories.

The first category shall constitute an "acceptable" record, the second two categories an "unacceptable" record. Published reports of the committee shall state in which category each record was placed, and the explanation for that placement will be provided by record in the last two categories.

- D. Other documentation received by the committee, such as tape recordings, etc. shall be circulated through the committee and/or submitted to recognized experts as is appropriate in each case. Whenever possible, original material shall be deposited in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

#### IX. Submission and Circulation of Records

- A. Records shall be circulated as received.
- B. If appropriate, the Chairperson will ask the reporter for additional details, which is kept with, but separate from, the original record. This may be done before or after circulation of a record.
- C. Records may be recirculated any number of times, providing there is some reasonable justification for doing so.
- D. Each record receives a permanent file number, as follows:
  - 1. The first number is a code number for the bird family.
  - 2. The second number is the year in which the record is received (not the year the observation was made).
  - 3. The third number is the next available unused number for that year.
- E. Records and rating forms are circulated to each member (voting) of the committee, who evaluates the documentation according to the standards set above, and then returns the rating form to the Chairperson.
- F. Members should not discuss the record among themselves before a decision has been reached by the committee as a whole. They are free to talk with an outside expert or the reporter. If such discussion yields any information significant to the consideration of the record, it is to be passed on to all other members.

- G. If a decision is not made on the first round, a record (along with the comments of each committee member made on the first round) is recirculated for a second round. If a decision is not made on the second round, the record should be held for the annual meeting for a face-to-face discussion.
- H. Voting committee members shall not vote or rate their own reports.
- I. If most or all voting committee members submitted a report on a given bird, then the reports should be sent to an outside expert for an opinion.

#### X. Publication

- A. If at all possible, an annual report of the committee's activities on reports of rare species shall be published in the CFO Journal, containing all necessary information. In the report, records will be arranged according to the year in which the observations were made. The most recent list of species for which documentation is desired should be published along with the report.
- B. If desirable or appropriate, the Chairperson may, at the end of his or her three year term, publish a three-year summary of the committee's activities in Western Birds.

#### XI. State List

- A. The committee shall maintain the Colorado Field Ornithologist's official list of Colorado birds, as designated in II-A-2. All species on the state list must be based on an extant specimen whose identification is supported by a reputable professional ornithologist(s), an acceptable photographic or taped record, or sight record(s) involving at least two observers (independently or concurrently). The list shall be published and available to all members as well as non-members who request the list.
- B. A species may be added to the state list or deleted from the state list if a majority of the committee's voting members support such an action (a unanimous vote is not required). As soon as is feasible after such an action is taken, the action and the reasons behind it shall be published. For two special situations, the following rules shall govern acceptance of new species:
  1. Since it is not within the technical expertise of the committee to challenge specimen identifications made by professional ornithologists, such an identification shall be considered an acceptable record on that basis alone, without the committee taking any action.
  2. A first state record that is supported by only a single-observer sight report can't at that time be accepted as a new state record (two or more observer sight reports and one observer photographic or tape reports can be so accepted). However, if such a record is considered acceptable other than the fact that it is a first record, it shall be given a status of "tentatively accepted", and shall retroactively be con-

sidered an acceptable record upon the acceptance of a second record of that species.

5. Duties of Other Committees.

- a. Field Trips Committee. This committee shall plan and arrange for and conduct field trips.
- b. Annual Meeting Committee. This committee shall plan and arrange for the Annual Meeting of the society.
- c. Nominating Committee. This committee shall, at the Annual Meeting of the society, propose one or more candidates for each of those positions that become open at that time. Any member of the society may suggest candidates to the Nominating Committee, but must do so prior to the start of the Annual Meeting. The chairman of the Nominating Committee must be a member of the Board of Directors.

VIII. Society Meetings

1. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting of society members shall be held during each calendar year, at a time and place set by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of electing Directors and Officers, and for transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to members at least 30 days in advance.
2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of society members may be called as determined by the board of Directors with notice given to all members at least five days in advance.
3. Quorum. Twenty-five members in good standing, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of society members.

IX. Bylaws

1. Review. The Bylaws shall be reviewed regularly by the Board of Directors or a committee set up by the Board.
2. New Bylaws or Amendments. The Bylaws may be amended or added to by a two-thirds vote of the board or by majority vote of the members attending the Annual Meeting, at the Annual Meeting. New Bylaws and amendments shall be published in the CFO Journal.
3. Distribution. Every new Officer and Director shall receive a copy of the Bylaws.

X. Parliamentary Procedure

1. Rules. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the society.



C.F.O. List of Supporting, Contributing and New Members of 1979

Supporting Members: Mrs. Nancy M. Taggart - Colorado Springs, Colorado,  
Peter and Louise King - Elbert, Colorado

Contributing Members: Charles Campbell, John and Joyce Cooper, Robert  
Gustafson, Kathryn Hawkins, Frank Justice, Joseph Krieg, David  
Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Wills, Roaring Fork Audubon Society

New Members in 1979

Boulder: Chip Blake, Bea Clawson, Ann Cooper, Gerald Dunphy, Bill  
Ervin, Bob Jickling, Hope Leighton, Jan McHugh, Mary Joan Milash,  
Nancy Pate, Terry Root, Tom Van Zandt, Pat Wheat

Colorado Springs: Robert Carlton, Bernard Ewell, Betty and Larry  
Field, Toni Gardella, Robert Joyce, Dr. Donald Van Horn

Denver: Steve Bissell, Timms Fowler, Ann B. Hodgson, Beth Lapin  
(Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory), Bob Tully

Fort Collins: Mrs. Charles Chase, Richard Schroeder, Steven  
Vaughan

Also: Francis E. Christensen, Antonito; Donald M. Hoffman, Craig;  
Karen Jepson, Manitou Springs; Stu Jones, Littleton; Robert R.  
Kelly, Wheatridge; John Merchant, Eagle; Diane Osborne, Golden; Dan  
Pinkhan, Hale; Fred Rimmel, Pueblo; Fred Sherlock, Durango; Susan  
P. Whallon, Steamboat Springs; Vincent and Roberta Winn, Sedalia;  
Mark Yeager, Pueblo

Out of State Members: Dennis L. Carter, Luray, VA; J.M. Grugan,  
Boston, MA; Edward Gustafson, San Jose, CA; Joseph S. Kasprzyk,  
Peabody, MA; Sophia C. Mery, Bartlesville, OK; Charles Mills,  
Wilton, AR; D. Weir Nelson, Cedar Rapids, IA; M.A. Root,  
Albuquerque, NM; Norma Struckhoff, Rockville, MD

CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

May 17 - Saturday - Full Day

Bonny Reservoir Spring Count Leader: Peter Gent (494-1750). Meet at Wagon Wheel Campground on the SE side of Bonny Res. at 6:00 A.M. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher and other eastern species.

May 24 and 25 Saturday and Sunday

CFO 18th Annual convention at Chautauqua Resort -- see complete details elsewhere in this issue. Local Boulder birdwatching, Scientific papers session, Annual Banquet, Extended Field Trips on Sunday and Monday.

May 31 - Saturday - Full Day

Pawnee National Grasslands Leader: Bill Ervin (444-6683, or at Nunn Field Station 897-2210). A field study by the leader is in progress. Bill will facilitate observing the courtship and nesting of several short-grass prairie specialties including: Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, and both Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs. Other species possible are: Upland Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, nesting raptors, Cassin's Sparrow, and late migrant passerines in the cottonwood groves. Meet at the junction of U.S. 85 and R.D. 114 (8 miles North of Nunn) at 7:30 AM. Allow just under two hours from Denver. Camping at Crow Valley Campground near Briggsdale on Friday night would avoid the long early morning drive on Saturday.



**COLORADO  
BIRD DISTRIBUTION  
LATILONG STUDY**



Order from:

Judd Sundine, Treasurer  
Colorado Field Ornithologists  
5325 Garland  
Arvada, CO 80002

Make checks payable to C.F.O.

Price: Still only \$2.00