

# *C.F.O. Journal*

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



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### **C.F.O. JOURNAL**

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CFO JOURNAL is 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: Peter Gent, 55 South 35th Street, 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: Great Horned Owl by Narca Moore.

Narca formerly lived in Boulder where she was very active in Colorado birdwatching and wildlife art. Now living and birdwatching in California, she is the director of artwork for the Animal Protection Institute. Her job has recently taken her to the Galapagos Islands and Prince Edward Island, Canada.

## C.F.O. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST ANNUAL COLORADO  
FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The CFO will be offering a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize award for the best photo entries of living, free birds taken in Colorado--sorry no captives or hand-held shots. Each contestant will be limited to six (6) entries; entries will be judged on the basis of technical excellence, artistic merit, difficulty, and ornithological value. Please identify each print or transparency with your name, and furnish an addressed, stamped return envelope. Winning entries will be displayed at the 1981 Joint CFO-WFO Annual Convention to be held 26-28 June in Estes Park, Colorado. Deadline for entries--1 June 1981. Send entries to: David L. Alles, 1520 Belmont Drive, Longmont, CO 80501.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

If you have a presentation that would be of interest to the general membership (particularly bird identification, distribution or field observations), please submit an abstract for consideration to: Bruce E. Webb, EPO Biology Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309.

## C.F.O. DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

There will be two vacancies on the CFO Board of Directors. If you wish to submit a nomination for consideration, please submit the name, address, and phone number of the nominee to Dr. Ronald Ryder, 748 Eastdale, Ft. Collins, Colorado 80523.

## FROM THE EDITORS

Thompson Marsh is a very special part of the Colorado birding community. This distinguished man has done much to promote bird watching in Colorado. To show our admiration and appreciation of Thompson, we have reproduced the Introduction of his Master's Thesis which was published 50 years ago.

Remember the annual convention is coming up at the end of June. This will be a joint meeting with the Western Field Ornithologists (who publish the quarterly journal--Western Birds). The registration form is on the inside of the mailing cover. Registration forms should be sent as soon as possible but no later than 15 May.

Don't forget the annual CFO latilong field trip. This year it is to latilong blocks 2 and 3. Please try and participate.

PETER GENT and TERRY ROOT

## CONVENTION NOTICE

The nineteenth annual convention of the CFO is being held jointly with Western Field Ornithologists in Estes Park, Colorado, on 26-28 June 1981. Please consult this issue of C.F.O. Journal for a description of convention plans! This enclosure provides accommodations description, cost breakdown, and registration form. Please note the May 15th deadline. The registration form is this issue's outside mailing wrapper. Register early.

Tentative Schedule: The conference begins on 26 June 1981 with afternoon sign-in at Dick Hall at YMCA. The first scheduled meal for those staying at YMCA is dinner on Friday. Check out will be Sunday morning, with the final meal scheduled for noon on 28 June.

- 26 June: Sign-in (2:00-8:00), lodging arrangements, evening owl trip (Boreal Owls are suspected breeders in RMNP--no guarantees!).
- 27 June: Sign-in and morning birdwatching in RMNP. Afternoon presentation of papers will be followed by a banquet dinner. Our post-banquet guest speaker address will be given by Bruce Edinger who is currently studying hybridization of the two races of Northern Oriole in eastern Colorado. He will have slides and tape recordings to present.
- 28 June: Early morning trip to Pawnee National Grasslands. Trip will last most of the day.
- 29-30 June: Post-convention field trip lead by CFO members to parts of eastern Colorado. Special arrangements can be made at the convention. Likely eastern species include: Mississippi Kite, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Dickcissel, Bobolinks, possibly Black-billed Cuckoos, and Scissor-tailed and Great-crested Flycatchers.

Lodging: Participants may choose between accommodations on the conference grounds at YMCA or private arrangements in the park or local motels.

1. YMCA: Rates quoted are per person per day, including lodging, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, use of meeting space, and membership and grounds fees. Rates also include gratuity which will be divided among all staff, other than full-time staff. Children's rate applies to children ages 2 through 11, sharing a room with parents. The rate for adults depends on the total number of persons in the room. Rates are subject to change without notice.

A. <u>Mt. Ypsilon Lodge</u> (Full Bath, 1 double bed, 1 single bed)	
Single	\$ 29.00
2 to a room	25.00 per person
3 to a room	22.00 per person
Children	12.00 per child

- B. Rooms with Half Bath (Central showers - twin beds which can be bunked)

Hague House and Howard Hall

Single	\$ 21.50
2 to a room	19.50 per person
3 to a room	18.50 per person
Bunked to 4 to a room	17.50 per person
Bunked to 6 to a room	16.50 per person
Children	10.50 per child

2. Private arrangements: Participants are free to make private camping or motel arrangements in Estes Park. We urge you to do so early because this is a busy time of year. Camping arrangements in RMNP (which can include RV hook-ups) should be made through the National Park Service in Estes Park. We will send a brochure listing accommodations available in Estes Park to anyone requesting it. This is important for any people considering a longer stay than 26-28 June. YMCA requires a \$3 grounds fee. All reservations are handled on a first come - first served basis.

**Registration Form:** Please complete the accompanying form, found on the back side of this issue's outside mailing wrapper. Include a check made payable to Colorado Field Ornithologists, and provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reservation confirmation. Return the form to Jeanne Conry, Biology Department, University of Colorado, 1100 14th Street, Denver, CO 80202.

**\*\*REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 15 MAY\*\***

Register early if you can.

Space is limited.



## THOMPSON MARSH--AN APPRECIATION

by The Editors

In 1931, Thompson George Marsh published his thesis for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of Denver. His thesis discusses the first records of bird sightings in Colorado. At this 50 year anniversary of the publication, we would like to honor Thompson by reproducing the thesis' introduction in the CFO Journal. But, first a bit about Thompson himself.

Thompson was born in Lacon, Illinois in the early part of this century, but his family moved to Colorado when he was quite young. Thompson attended Park Hill School and then Manual High School in Denver. Once when home sick from school, his mother brought him a copy of Handbook of Birds of the Western United States by Florence Merriam Bailey to read. That was all it took to get him hooked on bird watching. His records of bird observations go back to 1917 and he still keeps a daily record in Latin! The language reflects Thompson's profession of Professor of Law at the University of Denver. Thompson has been a long time member of the Denver Field Ornithologists and in the first half of the 60s was the main driving force behind creation of the statewide organization, the Colorado Field Ornithologists (see Vol. 14, No. 3 for details).

Thompson has traveled widely chasing birds and has seen over 700 species in North America. In the state of Colorado, he has seen 398 species and is still looking for a couple more. If you see a Black Duck, Gyrfalcon or a Hudsonian Godwit please give him a call. Now in appreciation of one of Colorado's special birdwatchers, we reproduce the introduction of his 1931 thesis. Some of the bird names have been changed and we have noted those changes in parentheses.

A History of the First Records of all the Birds Reported to Have Been Seen Within the Present Boundaries of the State of Colorado Prior to Settlement.

## INTRODUCTION

The history of Colorado begins with a slave-catching expedition by Juan de Archuleta in the middle of the seventeenth century, but the first journal here available is the account of a more pious march by two Franciscan friars, Silvestre Velez de Escalante and Francisco Atanasio Dominguez. In their attempt to discover a route from Santa Fe to the new colonies in Alta California, they traversed almost the full width of western Colorado in 1776, converting the Utes, and recording the consumption of the first bird reported from Colorado, a Dusky Grouse (Blue Grouse), taken between the San Miguel and Uncompagre Rivers on August 26. It was "exceedingly palatable."

Zebulon Montgomery Pike, thirty years later, came up the Arkansas Valley on a mysterious military journey which he pretended to be a

search for the headwaters of the Red River. Near Lamar, a Merriam Turkey (Turkey) was killed and for two weeks no other sort of bird is mentioned. Then on November 27, after the brave but futile effort to reach the top of Pike's Peak, the four hungry and exhausted soldiers returned to their camp at the foot of Cheyenne to find that of all their provisions, the American Ravens (Common Ravens) had taken everything but "a piece of deer's ribs". This small expedition to what was then called "Highest Peak" returned to the main camp on the Arkansas, and on December 1 camped in a very deep snow at the mouth of Turkey Creek. The American Magpies (Black-billed Magpies), made bold by hunger, took food from the hands of the men, and tortured the horses by pecking at their sore backs.

After a trip through South Park the company again returned to the Arkansas and Christmas Day was spent in camp near Brown Canyon. A Road-runner was trapped and this curious meat-eating bird, which looked like a pheasant, afforded a bit of diversion. When a companion was put into the same cage they fought until the intruder was killed.

Across the Sangre de Cristo range in mid-winter Pike made his way at the cost of terrible suffering, and reached the San Luis Valley, far within the territory of Mexico. On the Conejos, a tributary of the Rio Grande, he built a fort and waited, apparently, for the Spaniards to come and capture him. This they politely did, and on February 26, 1807, he entertained the two officers from Santa Fe at a breakfast of Canada Goose.

Through the valley of the South Platte, Major Long's expedition from Pittsburgh entered this region. They proceeded up the river, and on the Fourth of July, near the mouth of the St. Vrain, found the nests of the Western Mockingbird. On July 5, while camped at the mouth of Clear Creek, then called Cannon Ball because of the size and shape of the boulders in its bed, some of the men essayed a short walk to the mountains. They had the experience common to those who are deceived as to distances by the clear atmosphere, and so had to make a meal, away from camp, on a couple of Long-billed Curlews. The sandstone banks of the stream at this place were covered with the nests of Cliff Swallows, and at the main camp on the Platte, near Denver, Western Robins were numerous.

Thomas Say, a trained ornithologist, was a member of this party, and the next day, at the mouth of Platte Canyon, he described the Rock Wren as a hitherto unknown species, as was also the case with the Band-tailed Pigeon, taken near Sedalia on July 9.

South along the front of the range and over the divide on to the waters of the Arkansas brought them to the vicinity of Colorado Springs, where, on July 12, the Arkansas Goldfinch (Lesser Goldfinch) and the House Finch were collected. Pike's Peak, dominating this region, had not yet been climbed by any man and while the others remained in camp, the ascent was attempted by Dr. Edwin James and two unnamed companions. The top was reached on July 14 and they had time to get back down to timber-line that night.



The next day, while returning to camp, a great number of birds were noted along Fountain Creek: Desert Sparrow Hawk (American Kestrel), Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Mourning Dove, Winter Wren, Spurred Towhee (Rufous-sided Towhee) and Long-tailed Chat (Yellow-breasted Chat), and on the same day Mr. Say added a description of the Burrowing Owl.

The Arkansas River was the next stopping place. Two days were spent near Turkey Creek while Captain Bell and Dr. James took a side trip up to the Royal Gorge. A Lazuli Bunting was seen on July 18, and on the 20th, while the company was passing down the Arkansas opposite the mouth of the Huerfano, the Arkansas Kingbird (Western Kingbird) was added to the species theretofore unknown to science.

While some of the party continued to follow the river to the states, another group turned south to the Canadian River. Just before crossing the Colorado-New Mexico line they saw some Desert Horned Larks and some Cowbirds (Brown-headed Cowbirds), one of which followed them for five or six miles, standing by at times, to watch the procession go past.

Beaver hats were the fashion in those days, and among the many trapping expeditions was one led by Jacob Fowler, up the Arkansas, over Sangre de Cristo Pass to Taos, and then on up to the headwaters of the Rio Grande, where the late winter of 1821-1822 was spent catching beaver. When spring came, geese were added to the daily fare, and on March 30, in addition to five geese, a Sandhill Crane was killed.

Prior to 1826 C. L. Bonaparte had somehow obtained a specimen of Say's Phoebe from Colorado; but the next journal of a traveler who added new birds to the list is that of Thomas Jefferson Farnham. At Peoria, Illinois he formed a group which set out for "Oregon or the Grave". A poor route was chosen--up the Arkansas, through South Park, and over the continental divide to the Blue River. On July 29, 1839 they crossed the Colorado River, and Farnham took time to mention the birds of the region. The new species were: Rocky Mountain Jay (Gray Jay), Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Western Meadowlark.

Thus far the visitors to Colorado seem all to have had some rather definite purpose, but Rufus B. Sage merely was hunting game for food and adventures for a book. Out near the sources of the Arikaree the American Crows (Common Crows) nested in huge colonies, and for several days in June 1843, Sage feasted on their eggs, boiled, fried, and roasted. He gathered them six and ten dozen at a time. By November 10, he was in the region of the North St. Vrain, and came upon the old camp of some Indians who had been catching Golden Eagles for their highly valued feathers. It had been a successful hunt, for thirty-six birds were found piled up on the ground.

John Charles Fremont crossed the state many times on the various expeditions which won for him the name of "Pathfinder". (Which, after all, is a very good name, for most of the "paths" were well worn many years before he "found" them.) On returning from his first trip to

California, he crossed southward through North, Middle, and South Parks, and on June 20, 1844, while in Middle Park, saw Sage Grouse near the Blue River.

Fremont's third exploration really started from Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River, between La Junta and Las Animas, in August, 1845. A survey of the country south of that point was ordered to be made by Lieutenant J. W. Abert, who crossed Raton Pass to the Canadian River, but before leaving Colorado he reported the Northern Flicker (Common Flicker) and the Long-crested Jay (Steller's Jay), on August 22.

War with Mexico came in 1846, and while following the mountain division of the Santa Fe Trail to that town, which was occupied very easily, Lieutenant W. H. Emory noted near the head of Timpas Creek the Kingbird (Western Kingbird) and the Lark Bunting, now the State Bird of Colorado.

At this same time Francis Parkman, the historian, was traveling along the eastern base of the mountains, and on August 12, added some Western Crows (Common Crows) to his picture of the desolation along a dry tributary of the South Platte.

Lieutenant Abert had come out with the army which General Kearny led to Santa Fe and California, but illness had detained him at Bent's Fort. While there, on August 26, 1846, he was brought a specimen of Killdeer, and on September 13, when he had recovered and was on the way to Santa Fe, he saw Red-shafted Flickers (Common Flickers) and large flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds along the Purgatory River.

From Mexico, George Frederick Ruxton came north into Colorado by way of the San Luis Valley and Sangre de Cristo Pass, and spent the winter of 1846-1847 hunting along Fountain Creek and in South Park. The ice went out of the Arkansas on March 24, and soon thereafter came the Mountain Bluebirds, and toward the end of the month, Prairie Chickens (Lesser Prairie Chickens) were booming as he rode north up the Fountain.

A railroad to the Pacific Ocean was projected in 1853 and many surveying parties were sent into the field to determine a route. One of them, under Captain J. W. Gunnison, crossed Colorado, up the Arkansas, over Sangre de Cristo Pass, through the San Luis Valley, over Cochetopa Pass, and down the Gunnison and the Colorado Rivers into Utah, where Captain Gunnison was killed by Indians. Mr. F. Kreutzfeldt accompanied this expedition and collected specimens of the Swainson Hawk, Western Red-tail, Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier), American Long-eared Owl, Western Nighthawk (Common Nighthawk), and Redhead which were sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and reported upon by Spencer F. Baird.

Northeastern Colorado was traversed in the summer of 1856 by a party under Lieutenant Francis T. Bryan, returning to Fort Riley from Fort Bridger by way of the Cache la Poudre, South Platte, and North Fork of the Republican. W. S. Wood was with them, and shot a Ferru-

ginous Rough-leg (Ferruginous Hawk) and a White-crowned Sparrow. They were sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

That same institution, in 1857, received the collection of specimens which Dr D. W. C. Peters had made in the vicinity of Fort Massachusetts on Ute Creek in Costilla County. It included the American Rough-legged Hawk, Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker, Dipper, Long-tailed Chickadee (Black-capped Chickadee), and Pinyon Jay.

The strenuous march in mid-winter, made by Captain R. B. Marcy from Fort Bridger to Fort Massachusetts for supplies, is noteworthy for its heroism and for the fact that W. W. Anderson, who was with March, collected near Cochetopa Pass, the first specimens of the Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan found within the United States. The pass was crossed on January 2, 1858.

In this year "settlement" began, at Cherry Creek and the South Platte, though there are, in the San Luis Valley, towns founded by the New Mexicans at earlier dates in the same decade.

No new birds were added by the accounts of the following persons who were in this region during the period. They were: 1811, Ezekiel Williams; 1821, Thomas Becknell; 1824, James Ohio Pattie, M. M. Marmaduke, William H. Ashley; 1831, Zenas Leonard; 1835, Lieutenant Kingsbury, Captain Ford, Hugh Evans; 1839, F. A. Wislizenus; 1842, A. Lawrence Lovejoy; 1845, S. W. Kearny; 1846, John T. Hughes, Lewis Garrard; 1847, William Gilpin, Susan Shelby Magoffin (1846); 1848, Micajah McGehee; 1853, Gwinn Harris Heap, S. N. Carvalho; 1856, Francis T. Bryan.

## THE WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER--A TIMETABLE FOR BIRD WATCHING

by Roberta Winn

Route 2, Box 296, Sedalia, Colorado 80135

The Williamson's Sapsucker is one of the interesting birds of the montane zone of Colorado. As the range of this woodpecker is limited to the forests of the western states, this bird may be a species of particular interest for local birders and visitors alike. Knowing more about their timetable of activities may help you find them or enjoy them more. This is a general summary of their activity based on my observations for the past 11 summers near Westcreek, at an elevation of 7000-8000 feet. Individual birds sometimes differ in certain aspects of their behavior. For instance, a bird may continue to drum vigorously nearly all season, or another may dig nesting cavities at any time, or use an old one.

Mid-April. First males arrive. Drumming and establishment of territories occur. Birds are more active shortly after sunrise. Drumming has an uneven beat which can be easily distinguished from the Hairy Woodpecker but with much more difficulty from the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Vocalizations are often accompanied by a chase up a dead tree. Territories are often in aspen stands near pines. When territories are in the pines themselves, a dead or dying tree is chosen for the nesting cavity. New nest holes are excavated each year (with exceptions), but the same nest tree may be used for several years.

Early May. Some continuation of drumming and mating behavior occurs, especially early in the morning. Hole construction is under way--tapping may be heard. A new hole and/or chips at the base of the tree may be seen. A hole may be abandoned and another started if the tree is found unsatisfactory.

Late May. Egg-laying is in process. Incubation may start near the end of the month, or early June. Birds are quiet and not easily seen. Feeding activity (gleaning insects) is greater in the early morning.

Early June. Incubation is in process for 12-14 days. The male and female may alternate incubation duties. The male usually incubates at night. Drumming only occurs for short periods.

Mid-June. The young are hatching. Adults can be seen coming to the nest hole at frequent intervals. The young have weak calls for food during the first few days and then become more vociferous.

Late June. At a considerable distance from the nest hole, the young can be heard giving an almost continuous call for food. Adults return often to feed young. When coming to the nest the adults give a call that sounds much like the mew of a cat. Fledging of early broods may occur.

July, first week. Young fledge from most nests. Families disperse from the nesting area. There is a resurgence of drumming. New holes may be started, but I have never recorded a second nesting.

Mid-July. Young are out of the nests (with a few exceptions). Birds are quiet and seldom seen after this period.

September. Birds leave the Colorado mountains.

October. An occasional male has been seen as late as October 11.

In summary, the best place to find Williamson's Sapsuckers is in small aspen stands in the mountain foothills with nearby pine forests. Most of the small aspen stands along the mountain back roads southwest of Denver will have Williamson's Sapsuckers. Population numbers, however, vary from year to year. Listen for drumming in mid-April and early May. In May and June, look for nest holes, and evidence of recent use. Watch for wood chips on the ground. Listen for young from mid-June through early July. Note recently drilled trees (freshly dug pits in rows). Sight records are better than sound records because the calls of the Williamson's Sapsucker and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are difficult to distinguish. Good searching and good watching!



Williamson's Sapsucker

Sketch by Tim Manolis

## SUMMER NESTING SEASON

by Bruce Webb, 3 Chautauqua, Boulder, Colorado 80302

Attempting to extract unequivocal information from an unstandardized collection of observers' submitted seasonal reports is difficult in some cases and impossible in others. When one person later attempts to bring everyone's reports into a final synthesis and write a C.F.O. Journal seasonal summary such as this one, inevitably a few people complain because their "important sightings" were missed or not included. This summary will not consider some reports because they were difficult to interpret. I hope all present and potential contributors will read the examples below, and keep them in mind when composing a report.

A. This is a verbatim statement excerpted from one typed report:

"Mourning Doves and Band-tailed Pigeons were down in numbers in this area as far as I can tell."

Consider the problems a writer of a seasonal summary has in interpreting this statement.

1. There is no mention of numbers of birds seen. This makes it impossible to compare with past or future reports, or with reports from other areas.

2. Two opposite interpretations of this statement are possible:

- a. Fewer numbers were seen than previously, or
- b. more birds were seen at lower elevations (Band-tailed Pigeons frequently wander).

The original statement above, or the often stated "numbers normal" has meaning for the person making it, but not to a subsequent reader.

B. Near the other end of the reporting spectrum, some reporters know what is valuable and publishable. The following actual 1980 summer report is provided as an example in the hope that contributors will consider the merits of its content.

"The following is a recap of our bird observations on June 14-15 in the White River National Forest. The sightings took place at Marvine Creek Campground, which according to the Forest Service map, is 1/2 mile north of the 40th parallel, 8-9 miles northeast of Buford. (Latilong 2) . . . will list only latilong changes . . .

Orange-crowned Warbler #2 (Latilong Block) b to B. Doug found nest on ground at base of an aspen. Small cup of woven grasses, 4

eggs, beige in color with brown speckles on larger end. Boy, how tiny. Size of half my little finger ..."

1. This report expresses meaningful information on latilong status revision: the position of the nest, habitat information, and interim productivity (number of eggs).

2. While this report accomplishes the above, it does not sacrifice any of the obvious excitement of the discovery. Systematic, careful reporting need not be dry scientific data writing.

Being in the field during summer months can be rewarding in a number of ways. Finding nests, following their progress, and taking detailed notes on habitat association of the birds we find can generate useful information for other birders and management agencies. Few other states even have a reference framework to which willing field observers can contribute. We have the 28 blocks of latitude and longitude to investigate. Information, particularly on habitat associations of the birds within each latilong block, is needed by state and federal agencies whose job involves managing habitat for the benefit of wildlife. Significant changes in land use are under way and will have an impact on many portions of Colorado. Oil shale development activities seems to result in removal of expanses of pinyon-juniper woodland. Woodcutting for firewood (a growing business) seems to result in removal of standing dead (preseasoned wood) trees. These trees are necessary for the breeding success of our many cavity nesting species. All small owls, nuthatches, chickadees, bluebirds, and woodpeckers to name just a few, require these trees.

Information which included breeding details (courtship, young observed) or species of special interest from the summer of 1980 are listed in the following section. Reporter's initials are in parentheses. (\*) indicates subject to Records Committee action.

**WATERBIRDS:** Common Loon-reported from three localities: one Shadow Mountain Lake, Grand Co., June and July with two seen on 6/16 (DJ). One in breeding plumage, near Livermore, Larimer Co. on 6/13 (PE). One on Kossler Lake above Boulder on 7/5 (E,DV-BBC). Eared Grebe-approximately 750 nests at Walden Reservoir, Jackson Co. 6/18 (FJJ). Adults were 7-10 days into nesting when water levels were lowered resulting in "hundreds of deserted grebe nests." The birds attempted to renest--results unwitnessed by reporter. 50 pairs nested at Lake Henry, Crowley Co. with many young on 8/4 (VT). Western Grebe-over 20 pairs with young at Lake Henry, Crowley Co. on 8/4 (VT). Another report, not mentioning young was 175+ at Union Reservoir, Weld Co. on 8/3 (RP). We should carefully monitor whether grebes are raising young. Losses due to water fluctuation (irrigation needs) could be minimized with proper management and sound advice from birdwatchers. Pied-billed Grebe-four adults and six young at E. Berthoud 6/8, 7/9 (AM). White Pelican-10 adults, 8 young at Nelson Reservoir, Boulder Co. 7/6 (AM). Double-crested Cormorant-26 nests at Chatfield this year (5 in 1979). Young were produced this year but no numbers given (HEK). Great Blue Heron-92 nests at Chatfield, (71 in

1979, 9 in 1971) represents a steady increase (HEK). West slope reports were of four active nests with young at the Delta heronry in mid-June. Gunnison heronry had 25+ active nests (MN). Green Heron-at RGWA (changing M to b in latilong block 24) 7/21 and 22 (MN). Snowy Egret-five reported from North Park on DFO trip 6/17-19. Nest photographed at Walden Reservoir 6/20 was a new latilong record (FJJ - Changing b to B in latilong block 3).

**HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS:** Two reports of Common Black Hawk and one report of Harris' Hawk from the Chatfield Reservoir area in late June were undoubtedly the most unusual sightings of the season. The CFO Records Committee will handle publishing details of these in a later issue. Swainson's Hawk-summer congregations of young of this species occasionally are observed on the plains. One flock of 116 hawks, mostly immature, was seen one mile south of Erie on County Line Road on 7/26 (BH). Bald Eagle-no reports of nests. Osprey-specific locations were not provided but of seven nests in the North Park area, most nests fledged no young. Eggs were found discarded from the nests. One successful nest with two young in Walden area (DJ). Mississippi Kite-one report of 48 kites at Lamar 7/26 (DFO). Nesting colonies of this species should be looked for elsewhere in the Arkansas Valley. Blue Grouse-one above-treeline report of one female with seven young on Mt. Evans 8/1 (RP), and one adult with seven young at Kossler Lake on 7/24 (JG). White-tailed Ptarmigan-one female with three downy young on 8/2 at Medicine Bow Curve RMHP was the only report (RP). Turkey-two adults and 18-20 young at Carrizo Canyon 7/4 (CB) was from the expected, canyon-country habitat. Three to four adults at Two Buttes comes from a more unusual plains locality. Sandhill Crane-an infrequently reported summer resident. Three were at Steamboat Lake, Routt Co on 6/16 (FJJ). Virginia Rail-one adult, two immatures-and Sora-one adult, one immature-at Fossil Creek 7/6 (AM). Mountain Plover-a report of one male killed on the road "near Utah/Colorado border" near Rio Blanco Co. was not specific as to in which state the fatality occurred. Nests should be sought west of Rangely (BHG).

**PIGEONS THROUGH SWALLOWS:** Band-tailed Pigeon-a flock of 16 reported NE of Buford in latilong 2 were new for that block (new status "A") (JW). Mourning Dove-300-500 observed "adults and young" at Ft. Morgan on 7/19 (JR). Yellow-billed Cuckoo-reported statewide--several observers commented on it being far more common this year than previously. Many fatalities at windows and roadkills reported. Details will be featured in a later issue of the CFO Journal. Screech Owl-"one or more young" and two adults in Delta (MJ). Lewis' Woodpecker-one fully fledged immature and perhaps two adults were hawking grasshoppers near Union Reservoir, 8/3 (RP). In SE Colorado at Carrizo Canyon 40+ were seen 7/3-5 (CB). Williamson's Sapsucker-two adults entering nest hole NE of Buford in latilong 2 on 7/14-15, suggests a change from b to B status (JW). Gray Flycatcher-reported as one of the most common nesting species near Canyon City (Royal Gorge area) with at least 30 pair in early June (VT). Purple Martin-two reports received. Birds nested at Summit Lake, Montezuma Co. (KS). This is the second breeding record for that latilong (#22). In latilong 9 one



observed on 7/14 or 15 in the wilderness area E of Buford (new status "A") (JW).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES: There were two reports of Blue-winged Warblers\* seen on the same day 7/17; one male at La Jara, Conejos Co. (ML), would change the status to "A" in latilong 25, and one adult plus one possible juvenile at Littleton (MD, DFO). Orange-crowned Warbler-NE of Buford one nest found on 6/14 or 15. (Change b to B in latilong block 2.) (JW). Grace's Warbler-a report of two adults and three young in the Pueblo to Rye area on 7/27. More information needed as to which latilong the birds were observed (DCG, DFO). This would be a new latilong "B" record. Chestnut-sided Warbler-two seen at Lyons on 7/9 were suspected of nesting (FAC). (If verified it would be a new latilong "B" record for block 4. Until then, its status should be changed from M to b.) Scott's Oriole-several observations in Rio Blanco Co from 17 June into August (all observed by ARJ and BHG). One male singing from a juniper 8 miles NE of Rangely on 6/17. One male, one female and three juveniles seen on 6/19 about 12 miles NE of Rangely. "Juveniles were very similar to the female but could be recognized by their less efficient flight"-ARJ. On 8/8, one female and four juveniles seen 4.6 miles W and 3 miles N of Rangely. All above sightings are in Rio Blanco Co. and within latilong block 1 and indicate a status change from b to B. Great-tailed Grackle-this bird seems to be establishing itself in the southwestern latilongs. Two adults were suspected of nesting near Totem Reservoir later in August. 11 grackles were seen there (KS) (latilong status change in block 22 to "b"). Black-headed Grosbeak-one male observed singing from a nest in a Lodgepole Pine NE of Buford (latilong 2 status change; b to B) (JW). Indigo, Lazuli and Hybrid Buntings-no nest information. In the Boulder area a maximum of four Indigo observed in late June to early July, 21 Lazuli observed in late June to early July, and two Hybrids observed on June 8 (BCWI).

Persons wishing to learn more about reporting based on latilongs should invest in the Colorado Bird Distribution Study available for \$2 and carry it every time you go birding. See inside of the CFO Journal cover for availability.

Contributors: Chip Blake, Mary Dexter, Patty Echelmeyer, Billy H. Green, Julie Hammerstrom, Barbara Hyde, David Jasper, Austin Ray Johnson, Frank and Jan Justice, Hugh E. Kingery, Ann Means, Melvin Nail (Refuge Mgr., Monte Vista NWR), Richard H. Peake, Jr. (Wise, VA) Joseph Rigli, Kip Stransky, Van Truan, Ellen and Dan Valentine, Judy Ward. Boulder Bird Club (BBC), Boulder County Wildlife Inventory (BCWI), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Foothills Audubon Club (FAC). Abbreviations: RMNP - Rocky Mountain National Park; RGWA - Rio Grande Wildlife Area, near Monte Vista.

#### ADDENDUM

Identification Notes on Chaetura Swifts and Lesser and Greater Nighthawks

Vaux's Swift has yet to be convincingly documented to occur in

Colorado. This summer brings a report of a *Chaetura* swift identified as a Vaux's. In Utah, Vaux's Swift is considered a rare transient (Behle and Perry, 1975). Utah has two specimen records, one was collected near Salt Lake City. There are several other sight records for that state. For creatures as highly adapted for flight as both Chimney and Vaux's Swifts, the Continental Divide should not be considered as a barrier of any consequence. It is important to note that Chimney Swifts also occur west of Colorado in Utah (specimen record; Behle and Perry, 1975) and California (photographic record; Deviller, 1970). It is possible but not very likely that the *Chaetura* swifts in western Colorado are Vaux's Swifts. They are probably Chimney Swifts.

Distinguishing the two *Chaetura* species in the field (away from known breeding areas) is made difficult by the fact that viewing time, distance, and angle are generally not favorable for taking copious field notes. Probably, the only way Vaux's Swift will be added to the Colorado state list will be based on specimen, photographs, or tape recorded calls.

Basic to the problem of distinguishing between these two species are the following generalizations:

1. Chimney Swift is very similar to Vaux's Swift, but somewhat larger (Peterson, 1966),
2. Vaux's Swift is somewhat paler below than Chimney Swift, and
3. Vaux's Swift's flight is more hurried with less gliding than Chimney Swift.

Obviously, the value of such generalizations is limited to the experience and interpretation of the observer. Because these generalizations are comparative in nature, their value becomes most useful when the two species are seen together, a rare event in itself.

One of the best literature sources which compares Chimney and Vaux's Swifts is an article documenting Chimney Swifts in southern California by Devillers (1970). The following was gleaned from this article.

#### Flight Differences

Chimney Swift: larger size, longer wings, and less rapid wing beat. In flight, wings strongly curved backwards and bent downwards.

Vaux's Swift: small size, flight more hurried, faster wingbeats with less gliding and wings appearing stiffer.

#### Plumage differences

Chimney: upper parts and lower breast, belly, undertail coverts, wing lining uniformly sooty-black. The rump tinged with a slight brownish cast. Lower cheeks, chin, throat, upper breast slaty, less black.

Vaux's: normally a very pale, sometimes whitish chin, throat and cheeks sharply contrasting with a dark brown cap. The rump and upper-tail coverts light brown, clearly contrasting with back and tail. The facial contrast with the cap is the most apparent difference, followed by the stiffer, faster wingbeats of less swept-backed wings. The back to rump contrast under ideal conditions could be one of the more useful differences in sorting out these two species; although, in my experience, Chimney and Vaux's Swifts rarely bank and turn enough to give one the opportunity to view the upper surface.

The accompanying sketches of Vaux's and Chimney Swifts were made by Tim Manolis.



Vaux's and Chimney Swifts

Sketch by Tim Manolis

Voice:

Chimney: notes clearly detached and far carrying. Staccato clicks at times running together into a prolonged chittering. Sounding like "clicking of knitting needles" (Godfrey, 1966).

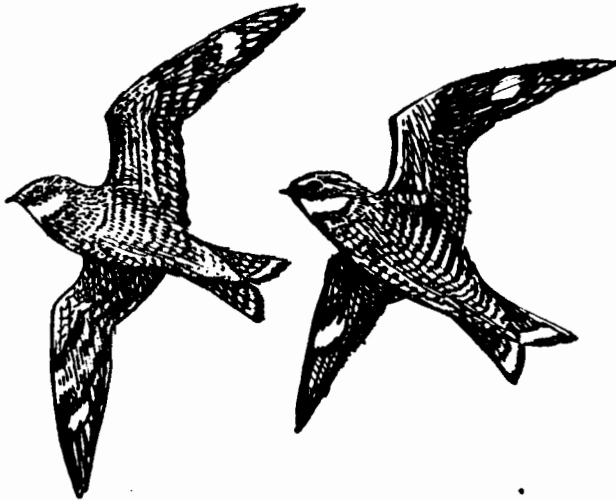
Vaux's: a faster, more run-together trill (Devillers, 1970). To my ear, the run-together, dry pattern of Vaux's Swift is reminiscent of the song of an Orange-crowned Warbler. However, the delivery of Vaux's trill modulates quickly up and down 2-3 times in each burst of calls.

In migration both species are not always vocal.

From western Colorado came rumors and one report submitted of an invasion of Lesser Nighthawks. Bailey and Niedrach (1965) list two specimen records of this typically southwestern U.S. species. Subsequently, others have examined both specimens and determined that only one is a Lesser Nighthawk, the other is a Common Nighthawk. Details on this will be published in a later issue of the CFO Journal. This misidentification should stand as an appropriate reminder warning that nighthawk identification should not be done hastily.

One overlooked factor undoubtedly influencing misidentification of nighthawks in Colorado is that five races are known to occur here. They are: Chordeiles minor minor, C.m. hesperis, C.m. sennetti, C.m. howelli, and C.m. henryi. The last named is smaller in size and browner than the others. Another important factor has to do with sexual differences. Selander (in Bailey and Neidrach, 1965) states in part that females (a) are smaller in size, (b) have smaller size and mottled appearance of the white wing patch, and (c) have browner, buffier, or more ochraceous under parts.

The possibilities of confusion with Lesser Nighthawks are several. One difference between the two species, which is not stressed in most field guides, is in the pigmentation of the remiges. Illustrated in Pough (1957), Bailey and Niedrach (1965, plate 68) and the sketch provided here by Tim Manolis is the barred appearance of the Lesser Nighthawk's flight feathers.



Lesser and Common Nighthawks

Sketch by Tim Manolis

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## BIRD WATCHING IN ESTES PARK-ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

by Warner K. Reeser

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The Estes Park-Rocky Mountain Park area offers a variety of breeding bird species in the spring and summer months. Most birders, particularly those from other states, are interested in a few species that are residents here and that are rare or non-existent in other locations. These include the White-tailed Ptarmigan, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, Black Swift, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Blue Grouse, Pine Grosbeak, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Boreal Owl. Some other more widely dispersed nesting species found in the upper transition and montane zones are: Dipper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ring-necked Duck, Goshawk, Osprey, Common Snipe, Evening Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Pine Siskin, and others. By using a Rocky Mountain National Park map, which can be obtained free at Park Headquarters or any Park entrance gate, the locations subsequently outlined can be found easily and all are readily accessible. A diligent birdwatcher who will take the time and proceed slowly should be able to find a substantial number of nesting species in upper Horseshoe Park, Moraine Park, Lower Cub Lake trail and Beaver Meadows. The accompanying map shows most of these locations.

White-tailed Ptarmigan--Found above timberline off Trail Ridge Road. The best areas are north of Rock Cut parking area; 1/2 mi north of Forest Canyon overlook; and north of Medicine Bow Curve parking area on the tundra. Ptarmigan are hard to find only because they are difficult to see due to natural camouflage and because they tend to remain still until almost stepped on.

Brown-capped Rosy Finch--Scattered during the breeding season, generally readily found, however. Found off Trail Ridge Road. The best locations are on the edges of snow fields at Lava Cliffs; Alpine Visitors Center; on the tundra between Gore Range Overlook parking area; and Forest Canyon Overlook.

Black Swift--Observed on occasion by the diligent sky watcher in Fall River Canyon above the Endovalley picnic area; in upper Moraine Park above the Cub Lake trailhead; and for hikers at Loch Vale and Odessa Lake. A word of caution--don't misidentify Violet-green Swallow as a Swift, both are in the same habitat.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker--Widely dispersed throughout the Park, quite often in areas that have newly beetle-killed Ponderosa trees. Hard to give a specific location due to a species habit of changing locations each year. Observed in the last three years in the following locations: around the outer perimeter of Moraine Park campground; Horseshoe Park just west of the Roaring Creed bridge; 1/2 mi above the Endovalley picnic area on the Fall River Road; and for two years in the fire burn at the west end of Cub Lake.

Williamson's Sapsucker--Can be found nesting in aspen groves along most streams within the Park up to about 9000 ft. They can always be found in Horseshoe Park around the Roaring Creek bridge.

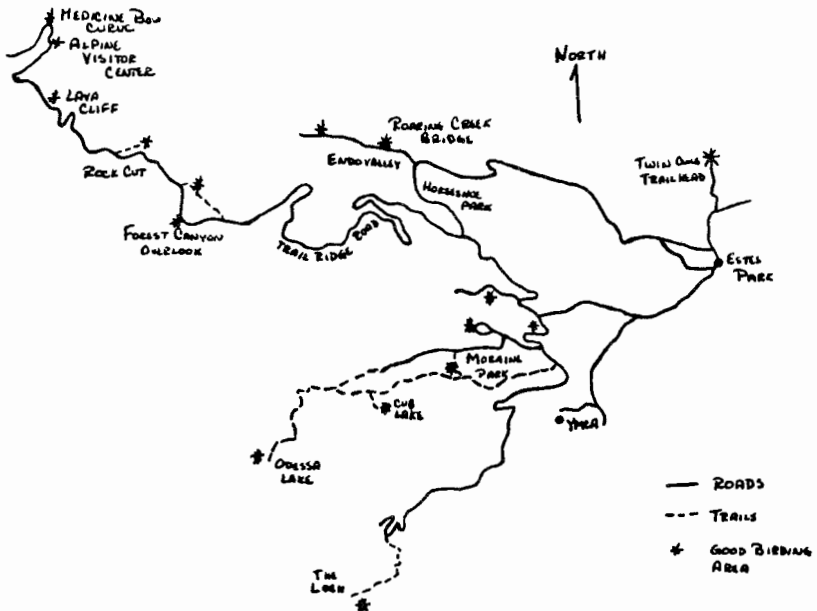
Osprey--Have been nesting on an island in the south end of Shadow Mountain Lake. This area is best approached by turning in at a small picnic ground near the south end of the lake. If you wind up on the dike, you have gone too far south. Another excellent birding area on the west side is the Holzwarth Homestead, just south of the Timber Creek campground. Access is from a parking area one mile south of the Timber Creek campground entrance.

Blue Grouse--Present in the Park at all elevations up to timberline, but are hard to find since it entails tramping around on often steep hillsides in dense growth to locate them.

Pine Grosbeak--Often observed on the Fall River Road from scenic marker 17 to timberline.

Band-tailed Pigeons--Observed in summer flying between Stanley Heights (northeast Estes Park) and the Twin Owls trailhead at Lumpy Ridge. Incidentally, the MacGregor Ranch-Twin Owls trailhead area is another excellent place to watch birds.

Boreal Owl--We know it is here. One, an injured bird was found in the village last winter; another, a road kill just southeast of town also last winter; and one was calling close to the Bear Lake parking area last April. Keep watching and good luck!



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT 1977-1980--Part 2.by Charles A. Chase III  
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The following is a summary of the class A records received and processed by the Records Committee in 1977-1980 (records in which the submitted documentation supports the stated or claimed identification). The class B and C records were summarized in Part I which appeared in the last issue of the C.F.O. Journal.

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*). One (1-78-24) Marston Res., Jefferson Co., 17 Dec 1977 (JR). This is a very late date.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). One (1-78-18) McClellan Lake, Arapahoe Co., 17-18, 25 Dec 1977. (RA, MM). Fifth state record.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One (4-78-42) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., 15 June 1978 (RA). Second record, very good details.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Florida caerulea*). Two (5-78-17) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., 17 May 1977 (RA). Sixteenth state record.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*). Three (5-78-52) 10 mi. S. Saguache on Hwy. 285, Saguache Co., 10 June 1978 (TH). Five (5-79-22) Latham Res., Weld Co., 1 Sept 1978; 23 (5-79-23) Beebe Draw Gun Club, Weld Co., 18 Aug 1978; three (5-79-24) Latham Res., Weld Co., 25 Aug 1978 (WPG). Thirty-second through thirty-fifth records. This species is increasing rapidly with known breeding at Riverside Res., probably Latham Res., and the San Luis Valley.

LOUISIANA HERON (*Hydranassa tricolor*). One (5-78-45) Valley-Hi Country Club Res., Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., 14-16 May 1978 (LPG). One imm. (5-78-60) Dye Res., Otero Co., 6 Aug 1978 (MH). Ninth and tenth records.

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Pair on nest with 5 eggs (6-80-39) Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Co., 13-26 July 1979 (HD). Four young seen in nest on 20 July. Thirty-ninth record, eighth nest located.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*). Seven (8-78-19) Lake DeWeese, Custer Co., early Dec 1977 - 12 Feb 1978. (RA, PM, DG, BW). Third state record.

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). Three (8-78-26) Belleview and Kipling, Littleton, Jefferson Co., 15 Dec 1977 (LM, JH). Thirty-first state record.



BLACK DUCK (Anas rubripes). One male (8-78-3) banded by Colo. Div. of Wildlife at Pole Mountain Reservoir, Jackson Co., on 4 Sept 1972; recaptured on 31 Aug and 2 Sept 1973 (MS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (Anas discors). One (8-78-25) Gravel pits between Federal and S. Platte River, Arapahoe Co., 17 Dec 1977 (JR). One pair (8-78-29) 7 mi. east of Boulder, Boulder Co., 18 Dec 1977 (JC). Both are very late date records.

EUROPEAN WIGEON (Anas penelope). One male (8-78-2) at Nelson Res., Larimer Co., Spring 1967 (MS). Eighth state record.

WOOD DUCK (Aix sponsa). One female (8-78-30) Viele Lake Table Mesa, Boulder, Boulder Co., 18 Dec 1977 (MF). Possible escape.

GREATER SCAUP (Aythya marila). One pair (8-78-33) 12 mi S. of Durango, La Plata Co., 23 Mar 1978 (TH).

SURF SCOTER (Melanitta perspicillata). One male (8-80-43) Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., 21 Oct 1979 (KC). West slope record.

COMMON SCOTER (Melanitta nigra). One male (8-78-1) Fairmont Lake, Denver, Denver Co., 28-30 Oct 1977 (JW, RA). Fourteenth record for Colorado.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (Ictinia mississippiensis). One (10-77-56) Hale, Yuma Co., 11 May 1977 (MM). Very unusual bird outside of the Arkansas Valley.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buteo lineatus). One (10-79-4) 1/2 mi upstream from Chatfield Res. on the S. Platte River, Jefferson Co., 18 Nov 1978 (HK). Fifteenth record.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Buteo platypterus). One (10-79-19) Willow Creek, Gunnison, Gunnison Co., 1 June 1978 (RK). Unusual West slope record.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER (Charadrius montanus). Four adults (18-80-51) near Utah/Colorado border between Bonanza, Uintah Co., Utah and Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., Colo, 9 May 1979 (AJ). One male (18-80-52) road kill at same location 20 June 1980 (BG).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (Tringa melanoleucus). One (19-78-31) Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Co., 18 Dec 1977 (MMA). This is the latest date a Greater Yellowlegs has been reported.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis). One (19-77-69) Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co., 7 Sept 1977 (TGM). Sixteenth state record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (Limosa haemastica). One (19-78-15) Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., 28 May 1977 (RA). One (19-80-32) Mile Hi Duck Club, Adams Co., 5 May 1980 (BTP). Ninth and tenth state rec.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri). One (23-78-22) Marston Lake, Jefferson Co., 17 Dec 1977 (MH, JR). One (23-78-50) Union Res., Weld Co., 19 Mar 1978 (PM). Three (23-78-34) Union Res., Weld Co., 2 Apr 1978 (BW). One of (23-78-34) may have been (23-78-50). Twenty-seventh through twenty-ninth state records.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla). Two (23-78-35) Toten Res., one mi. east Cortez, Montezuma Co., 21 Mar 1978 (RE).

ARCTIC TERN (Sterna paradisaea). One (23-80-2) Union Res., Weld Co., 11 and 12 Sept 1979 (PM, PG, CAC). An adult in prebasic molt in the company of Common, Forster's and Black Terns. Second state record. The first state record is a recently discovered specimen. Details will be published in a future C.F.O. Journal.

LEAST TERN (Sterna albifrons). One (23-77-58) Prewitt Res., Washington Co., 17 July 1977 (JP). One (23-78-69) Red Lion Wildlife Area, Sedgwick Co., 27 May 1978 (WL). Twelve (23-78-76) Adobe Creek Res. and Horse Creek Res., Las Animas and Kiowa Cos., 19 June - 26 Aug 1978 (CAC). (23-78-76) involved two pairs of terns that hatched three young each plus two non-breeding individuals. Sixteenth through eighteenth records; first confirmed breeding since 1949 (Chase, 1979).

CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia). One (23-78-40) Cherry Creek State Recreation Area, Arapahoe Co., 22 and 29 May 1978 (RA, FP). Third state record.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (Columba fasciata). One (25-79-8) Barr Lake, Adams Co., 20 June 1975 (RA). This record is quite far east from the normal distribution.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (Zenaida asiatica). One (25-80-12) 1.25 mi W. Timpas, Otero Co., 17 Sept 1977 (GE). Ninth record.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (Crotophaga sulcirostris). One (26-80-5) CF and I Res., Pueblo Co., 15 Oct 1975 (EB).

SPOTTED OWL (Strix occidentalis). Two adults (28-79-15) Mesa Verde National Park, Montezuma Co., 12-15, 18-19 May 1979 (BW). Fourteenth record.

BOREAL OWL (Aegolius funereus). One (28-78-53) 1 mi. N. Hwy. 34 on Soda Creek, Grand Lake, Grand Co., 2 Dec 1977 (DJ, RH). One (28-78-58) Deadman Lookout, Red Feather Lakes, Larimer Co., 16 July 1978 (BW). Ninth and tenth records.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (Calypte anna). One male (31-79-2) Grand Junction, Mesa Co., 19 Nov, 6 Dec 1978 (HT). Third state record.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (Stellula calliope). One male (31-79-5) Heron Grove, S. Platte River, immediately upstream from Chatfield Res., Jefferson Co., 22 July 1978 (HK). Two, male and female

(31-79-7) Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., 24-27 July 1978 (RA). Both of these reports are plains records of this typically mountain species.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Lampornis clemenciae). One female (31-77-61) 3 mi. W. Ridgway at Decker Ranch, Ouray Co., 30 July 1977 (HK). Fifth state record.

EASTERN PHOEBE (Sayornis phoebe). One (34-79-18) west end of Gunnison Valley between the town of Gunnison and Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co., 22 May 1978 (RK). West slope record.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus tyrannus). One (34-78-36) Arvada, Jefferson Co., 27 March 1978 (JS). Earliest record.

PURPLE MARTIN (Progne subis). Four (36-79-10) Stoner Mesa, 17 km. northeast Stoner, Dolores Co., 8 June - 18 July 1978 (KY, PSv, VS). Three plus (36-79-25) 8 mi. W. of Glenwood Springs, Garfield Co., 27 June (3) and 22 July (3) (MB). One (36-80-10) Jersey Jim Lookout Tower, Mancos, Montezuma Co., 23 July 1979 (WS). Eight (36-80-8) 3.5 mi. SSW Debeque, Mesa Co., 16 Aug 1979 (RL). A very large number of reports, all from the west slope. While the R.C. doesn't require documentation on west slope martins, these numbers seem to represent an increase.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (Vermivora pinus). One male (52-77-40) Boulder Creek below campus, Boulder, Boulder Co., 25 May 1977 (WF). One (52-78-47) Chasteen Grove Park, 7 mi. W. Loveland, Larimer Co., 20 May 1978 (HH, TM). Eighth and ninth records.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER (Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera). One male (52-80-29) Hanna Ranch, 20 mi. S. Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., 30 Apr 1980 (MA).

CAPE MAY WARBLER (Dendroica tigrina). One male (52-78-16) Bluebell Canyon, Boulder, Boulder Co., 19 May 1977 (RA). Fifteenth state record.

HERMIT WARBLER (Dendroica occidentalis). One female (52-78-39) Red Rocks Park, Jefferson Co., 9 May 1978 (RA). One male (52-79-9), Lakewood, Jefferson Co., 27 Apr 1979 (RA, found by John and Joyce Cooper). One female (52-80-28) Varsity Pond, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder Co., 16 May 1980 (HB). One male (52-80-56) 2 mi. N. Ridgway, Ouray Co., 16 May 1980 (JG). Second through fifth state records.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (Dendroica dominica). One male (52-78-38) Chataqua Park, Boulder, Boulder Co., 3 Apr 1978 (PG, BW). One male (52-78-77) Bear Creek Greenbelt, Lakewood, Jefferson Co., 11 May 1978 (MA). One (52-80-20) Eleven Mile Res., Park Co., 11 May 1979 (HS). Ninth through eleventh records.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (Dendroica pensylvanica). One male (52-79-17) Willow Creek, Gunnison, Gunnison Co., 30 May 1978 (RK).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (Dendroica castanea). One male (52-78-46) Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., 29 May 1978 (LPG). Two, female and male (52-78-56) Westcreek-Turkey Rock Ranch Estates road off Rt. 67 between Woodland Park and Deckers, Teller Co., 24 June 1978 (CC).

PINE WARBLER (Dendroica pinus). One female (52-78-51) Bonny Res. State Recreation Area, Yuma Co., 14 May 1978 (PM). One male (52-80-35) Bear Creek Canyon, Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., 9 Mar 1980 (EW). Tenth and eleventh records.

PALM WARBLER (Dendroica palmarum). One (52-80-31) Loveland, Larimer Co., 18 May 1980 (MLH).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis). One male (52-79-16) 100 meters E. Intersection roads 100 and 57, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld Co., 19 May 1979 (MH). Fifth record.

MOURNING WARBLER (Oporornis philadelphia). One male (52-80-26) U.S. Air Force Academy, El Paso Co., 18 May 1975 (CCu, DG, DT). Second state record, good details.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (Cassidix mexicanus). One male (54-79-13) Hartsel, Park Co., 1 and 4 July 1980 (MH, TF, CAC). Eighth record.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (Icterus parisorum). Two males (54-78-41) near Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., (PS). One female (54-78-8) Dinosaur National Monument Headquarters, Moffat Co., 24 July 1977 (JFA). Female and 4 young (54-80-45) 4.6 mi. W. and 3 mi. N. Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., 8 Aug 1979 (AJ). One male (54-80-46) 12 mi. W. Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., 6 Aug 1979 (BG). One male (54-80-47) 8 mi. NE Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., 17 June 1979 (AJ). One pair with 3 juv., one male, one pair (54-40-48) 12 mi. NE Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., 19-21 June 1979 (AJ). One male (54-80-49) 13 mi. NW Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., 5 Aug 1979 (BG). Two reports from Uintah Co., Utah on Colorado border also received. Sixth through twelfth records.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (Icterus spurius). One imm. male (54-78-9) Brown's Park NWR, Moffat Co., 7 June 1977 (WPG). West slope record.

NORTHERN ORIOLE (Icterus galbula bullocki). One (54-80-15) Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., 1 Jan 1980 (BP). Latest record.

SCARLET TANAGER (Piranga olivacea). One male (55-79-20) Powderhorn, Gunnison Co., 10 Aug 1978 (JB). West slope record.

HEPATIC TANAGER (Piranga flava). One male (55-78-59) Mesa de Mayo, Las Animas Co., 10 Aug 1978 (JS). Fourth state record.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (Pheucticus ludovicianus). One male

(56-78-27) Tuck's Farm on Platte Canyon Rd., Arapahoe Co., 17 Dec 1977 (RA). Late record.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (Pheucticus melanocephalus). One male (56-80-75) mouth of Big Thompson Canyon, Loveland, Larimer Co., 28-30 Jan 1980 (MHe). Very late record.

PAINTED BUNTING (Passerina ciris). One male (56-80-4) Lake Hasty Campground, Bent Co., 22 May 1979 (CAC). Collected by Allan Phillips, DMNH 36768.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus). One female (56-78-49) Conifer, Jefferson Co., 19 Dec 1977 - mid May 1978 (MK). Quite far west for the eastern subspecies. Good photos on file.

SNOW BUNTING (Plectrophenax nivalis). One (56-78-4) 6-7 mi. SE. Castle Rock on County Rd. 11, Douglas Co., 24 Jan 1977 (RA). Two (56-78-21) Chatfield Res., Arapahoe Co., 17 Dec 1977 (RA). One (56-78-32) Boulder Res., Boulder Co., 18 Dec 1977 (LG).

#### Contributors

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#### Reference

Chase, C., 1979: Breeding shorebirds in the Arkansas Valley. C.F.O. Journal 13: No. 2: 31-34.

## C.F.O. FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17. Investigation of the Craig (No. 2) and Steamboat Springs (No. 3) Latilong Blocks. For a meeting place, accommodations, and other information, call Charlie Chase (W) 575-3811. This is the second CFO latilong trip and should be as successful as the first one.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23-25, Memorial Day Weekend. Southeastern Colorado. Leader Bruce Webb (H) 444-0606. Leave Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m. from Denver Museum of Natural History north parking lot or meet enroute at Sugar City's downtown park on Hwy 96 at 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Baca County Specialties: Mississippi Kite, Least Tern, Snowy Plover. This will be a camping trip--2 nights. Motel arrangements should be self-arranged. Phone for itinerary and to confirm space. This is a joint CFO-DFO trip.

Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday, June 26-28. Joint Annual Meeting of CFO and WFO. See details elsewhere in this issue.

Monday and Tuesday, June 29-30. A two-day post convention CFO field trip to parts of eastern Colorado. Special arrangements can be made at the convention. Likely eastern species are Mississippi Kites, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Dickcissels and Bobolinks, possibly Black-billed Cuckoos, Scissor-tailed and Great Crested Flycatchers to name but a few.

Prospective field trips. There are a lot of fantastic places to bird in Colorado. Most of us have our favorite places to bird and also know of an area or two where we would like to bird but have not. Please let Timms Fowler know of these spots so he can arrange CFO field trips to these areas. If you do not want to lead the trip, Timms will be able to find a leader.

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