C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





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 S. 35th St., 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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FROM THE EDITOR

Terry Root recently resigned her position as co-editor of the CFO Journal and left Colorado for Princeton, New Jersey where she will continue her studies at the University. I, on behalf of the CFO members, take this opportunity to thank her for all her efforts with the Journal over the past few years. We wish her well.

Peter Gent.

Cover Drawing. Purple Martins by Narca A. Moore. Narca formerly lived in Boulder, but now lives in California where she is director of artwork for the Animal Protection Institute.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE RECORD 1980-1981

by Charles A. Chase III
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This report contains records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee (R.C.) from 1980-1981. Activities of the R.C. from its inception in May 1972 to date have been reported by Reddall (1973a, b, c; 1974a, b; 1975; 1976a, b) Andrews (1978, 1979) and Chase (1981a, b). The list of Colorado birds as recognized by the R.C. stands at 430 species as of 1 May 1982.

The R.C. currently consists of nine members: Robert Andrews (Denver), Daniel Casey (Lakewood), Charles Chase (Longmont, Chairman), Kevin Cook (Fort Collins), Ed Hollowed (Meeker), Steve Larson (Boulder), Tim Manolis (Boulder), Ron Ryder (Fort Collins), and James Sedgewick (Fort Collins). All R.C. records are deposited in the Department of Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History.

All records received are reviewed by the committee and rated according to an A-B-C-D system. A is a record for which the submitted documentation supports the stated or claimed identification. B indicates that the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made. C indicates that the submitted documentation is too brief or incomplete to allow its inclusion in either of the two previous categories. D is used when a member is reviewing his/her own record or is unfamiliar with the species in question and can give no opinion. A record, once completed will be resubmitted through the Committee only if an error was made initially or if new information regarding the identification of the species in general is brought forward. Since all records are stored at the Museum and are open to the public, anyone may use these records as they wish.

The following is a list of species for which the R.C. desires documentation (in addition to any species unrecorded from Colorado):

Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Louisiana Heron, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, European Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Whooping Crane (except W. slope), King Rail, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Wood-cock, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Red Phalarope, all Jaegers, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Caspian Tern, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Anna's, Rivoli's, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Martin (E. slope

only), Short-billed Marsh Wren, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Swainson's, Blue-winged, Lucy's, Cape May, Hermit, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Prairie Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning, and Canada Warblers, Painted Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark (except at Red Lion State Wildlife area), Scott's Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle (except in San Luis Valley), Hepatic Tanager, Painted Bunting, LeConte's, Sharp-tailed, Baird's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Part I -- Species added to the Colorado list

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (<u>Dendrocygna autumnalis</u>). One adult (8-80-84) at Chatfield State Recreation Area, <u>Jefferson-Douglas</u> Co., 21 September 1980. The R.C. has received reports from Robert Andrews and Mike Fitzpatrick describing this easily identified bird in great detail. No photos obtained. As always, the possibility of exotic waterfowl being escapees cannot be ruled out without the bird in hand. However, fall is certainly when this bird would be expected as it is a fairly extensive post-breeding disperser.

Part II -- Reported species not added to the Colorado list

Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus). One observed (33-80-60) at Billy Creek State Game Area, Ouray, Co., 5 September 1980. The single report received contains convincing details, however, a second independent observer report, a photograph, or the specimen must be available before a new species may be added to the state list. This species will be placed on the hypothetical list until a second observer submits a report or another bird with adequate documentation is found.

Part III -- Reports of Rare Species

The following is a summary of the class A records reviewed by the Records Committee in 1980-1981 (records in which the submitted documentation supports the stated identification).

Olivaceous Cormorant (Phalacrocorax olivaceus). One adult (4-81-25) at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., 29 June 1981 (PG). Many observers saw this third record.

Little Blue Heron (Florida caerulea). One immature (5-81-21) at

Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Co., 3 April 1981 (LH).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea). One adult (5-81-24) at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., 29 June 1981 (PG). Thirty-first record.

European Wigeon (<u>Anas penelope</u>). One adult male (8-81-10) at Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande Co., 5 April 1981 (SW). Eighth

record.

Ross' Goose (<u>Chen rossii</u>). Six adults (8-81-13) at Sweitzer Lake, Delta Co., 10-12 March 1981 (MJ). Thirty-second record.

Mississippi Kite (<u>Ictinia mississippiensis</u>). One adult (10-80-66) four miles southeast of <u>Loveland</u>, <u>Larimer Co.</u>, 17 August 1980 (ML).

Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus). One (12-81-29) five miles east of Prewitt Reservoir, Logan Co., 4 January 1981 (LH, PG). Eighth record; well photographed and seen for several days.

Whooping Crane (Grus americana). One adult (16-80-71) at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., 21 July-25 August 1980 (CC, CL). Eighth record.

Common Gallinule (<u>Gallinula chloropus</u>). One adult (17-81-9) at Ryan Gulch Lake, Larimer Co., 30 April 1981 (DL). Fifth record. Red Phalarope (<u>Phalaropus fulicarius</u>). One breeding plumage female

(21-80-22) at Little Hills Foot Pond, Meeker, Rio Blanco Co., 27 April

1979 (MG). Eighth record.

California Gull (<u>Larus californicus</u>). Five adults (23-78-23) at Bow Mar Lake, Denver, <u>Jefferson Co.</u>, 19 December 1977 (JR). One of the first winter records; this bird can now be found in Denver on any winter day.

Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan). One adult (23-81-23) west of Lafayette, Boulder Co., 6 March 1981 (MH). Rare winter record.

Little Gull (Larus minutus). One subadult (23-80-68) at Barr Lake

State Park, Adams Co., 13 September 1980 (RA, PM). Third record.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Two immatures (23-81-22) at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder Co., 6, 14 December 1980 (PG). Eighth record.

Least Tern (Sterna albifrons). One adult in breeding plumage (23-80-76) at Hert's Basin, Eckert, Delta Co., 11, 17, 20 May 1980

(MJ).

Least Tern (Sterna albifrons). One immature (23-80-63) Loveland, Larimer Co., 17 August 1980 (ML).

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). One adult (23-80-79) at Sloan's Lake, Denver, Arapahoe Co., II August 1980 (JC). Third record.

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). One breeding plumaged adult (23-80-67) at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas Co., 14 September 1980 (FJ, HK). Noted as fourth record but may have been the same bird that was at Sloan's Lake one month earlier.

Caspian Tern ($\underline{\text{Sterna}}$ $\underline{\text{caspia}}$). Two adults (23-81-12) at Chatfield State Park, Douglas-Jefferson Co.'s, 13, 14 May 1981 (DJ). Fifth record

well supported with excellent comparative photos.

White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica). One (25-81-1) observed in

Arvada, Jefferson Co., 30 June 1981 (JS).

Boreal Owl (<u>Aegolius funereus</u>). One (28-80-38) eight miles north of Grand Lake, Grand Co. 25 January 1980 (DD). Tenth record.

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus). One roadkill and one nest attempt (28-81-4) at Cameron Pass, Larimer Co., winter/spring 1981 (RR, DP). Several territorial birds were located as well as one nest that was later abandoned. The egg fragments are in the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus). One (29-81-19) in South Cheyenne Canyon, El Paso Co., 15-30 July 1981 (RB, LH). This fourth record was observed/heard by many observers and has been identified by

the call as being of the SW race.

Rivoli's Hummingbird (Eugenes fulgens). One adult female (31-80-62) at General Store, Gould, Jackson Co., 19 August 1980 (ML). Twentieth record.

Blue-throated Hummingbird (Lampornis clemenciae). One adult male (31-81-6) at Beulah, Pueblo Co., July 1977 (VT, P & WS). Sixth record. Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Picoides scalaris). One male and one

pair (33-80-75) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 26, 27 May 1979 and 3 February 1979 (LG, MA). Probable breeding locality as well as wintering record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus). One pair (34-81-18) bred at a ranch near Akron, Logan Co., June 1981 (HD, LH). The female apparently was killed in a hail storm and the two chicks died shortly thereafter. All three and the nest are in the collections at the Denver Museum of Natural History. This seventeenth record is the first breeding record in Colorado.

Short-billed Marsh Wren (Cistothorus platensis). Numerous birds (42-79-14) at Red Lion Unit, South Platte River State Wildlife Area, Logan/Sedgwick Co.'s, 27 June 1978 (WB). Quite diagnostic plumage and call description but rather phenomenal numbers (14-17) of this little known bird.

One (44-80-70) Boulder,

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus). One immature (51-80-69) seventeen miles SW of Fort Morgan, Morgan Co., 13 November 1980 (JCR). Very late observation of this fifth record.

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus). One (51-81-11) in Lakewood, Jefferson Co., 26 April 1981 (ME). Sixth record.

Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus). One (52-80-72) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 27 May 1979 (MA).

Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus). One male (52-80-20) on C.U. campus, Boulder, Boulder Co., 15 June 1981 (LH). Tenth record.

Tennessee Warbler (Vermivora peregrina). One male (52-81-26) at bog one-quarter mile south of Lake Eldora, Boulder Co., 21, 27, 28 June 1981 (DA, MF, JK). Extremely well documented (photos, tape recordings and several independent reports) of a territorial male in this boreal bog. No female was located and breeding remains only suspected.

Northern Parula (Parula americana). One singing male (52-81-2) one-half mile east of Eldorado Springs, Boulder Co., 3, 4, 5, July 1981

(JK). Another mid-summer territorial male.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (<u>Dendroica pensylvanica</u>). One male (52-80-73) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 20 May 1979 (MA).

Bay-breasted Warbler (Dendroica castanea). One pair (52-80-74) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 16, 20 May 1979 (MA).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporornis formosus). One male (52-81-16) at Durango, La Plata Co., 1 June 1981 (GC). Sixth record.

Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum). Four to five birds (54-81-17) breeding near Pleasantview, Montezuma Co., 28 April-4 June 1981 (CB). This oriole appears to be well established in the NW corner of Colo-It should also be looked for along the entire western border.

Hepatic Tanager (Piranga flava). One adult male (55-77-45) at Bear

Canyon, Boulder, Boulder Co., 9 May 1977 (SL). Fifth record.
Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus). One female (56-80-85) Poudre River, Fort Collins, Larimer Co., 27 December 1980 (DC). Twenty-sixth record.

Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla). One adult (56-81-15) Highline Canal, Littleton, Douglas/Arapahoe Co.'s, 28 February 1981 (DC). Rare winter record.

The following is a summary of class B and C records reviewed by the Records Committee in 1980-1981 (records in which the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made or in which details are incomplete).

Trumpeter Swan (01 or 0 buccinator). Six (8-80-59) at Wayne Seaton Pond, Buena Vista, Chaffee Co., 07, 09 March 3, 4, 01 April 1980. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details and did not eliminate Whistling Swan at all.

Ross' Goose (Chen rossii). Two (8-81-8) at New Castle, Garfield Co., 14, 15 May 1981. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details and the photos supplied do not clearly eliminate Snow Goose.

Red-shouldered Hawk (<u>Buteo lineatus</u>). One immature (10-80-78) at Cherry Creek Recreation Area, 28 August 1981. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Hudsonian Godwit ($\underline{\text{Limosa}}$ haemastica). One (19-80-65) at Loveland, Larimer Co., 17 August $\underline{1980}$. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). One adult (23-80-64) at Horseshoe Lake, Loveland, Larimer $\overline{\text{Co}}$, 22 August 1980. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Vaux's Swift (Chaetura vauxi). One (30-80-81) five miles south of Conejos Peak, San Juan Mountains, Conejos Co., 14 July 1980. The R.C. felt that Chimney Swift was not adequately eliminated from this report.

Hutton's Vireo (Vireo huttoni). One (51-80-13) at Glenwood Springs, Garfield Co., 15 August 1979. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

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Gyrfalcon (12-81-29) near Prewitt Reservoir, Logan Co., January 1981.



Vermilion Flycatcher (34-81-18) near Akron, Logan Co., June 1981.

SEASONAL REPORT--FALL 1981 (AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 31) By Steve Larson 4500 19th St. #630, Boulder, CO 80302

This report follows the format and criteria presented by Robert Andrews (Spring report 1980, CFO Journal Vol. 15, #1).

Part I

The following table summarizes the extreme departures and arrivals of the season. References for previous extreme and average dates are Holt (1980) Migration Calendar of Birds of the Plains of Colorado-Denver area-North and East, Halsey (1981) New Extreme Dates for Lane and Holt's book, CFO Journal Vol. 15, #3, and Davis (1969) Birds in Western Colorado.

Species and Location	Date of Observation	Previous Extreme Date	Average Date
Arrivals			
Cattle Egret (NE Colorado)	1 August	7 August	1 September
Least Flycatcher (NE Colorado)	8 August	9 August	22 August
Varied Thrush (Summit County)	21 August	15 November	25 November
Philadelphia Vireo (LaPlata County)	14 August	23 August	4 September
Magnolia Warbler (Jefferson County)	27 August	11 September	18 September
Black-throated Gray Warbler (Adams County)	3 August	8 August	24 August
Blackburnian Warbler (Boulder County)	31 August	9 September	17 September
Ovenbird (Boulder County)	16 August	19 August	27 August
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Boulder County)	22 August	24 August	30 August
Common Redpoll (Boulder County)	14 October	30 October	23 November
Fox Sparrow (Denver)	1 August	30 September	11 October
Departures			
Blue-winged Teal (Denver)	11 November	6 November	21 October
Western Sandpiper (Denver)	31 October	24 October	10 October

Species and Location	Date of Observation	Previous Extreme Date	Average Date
Departures (cont'd)			
Red-headed Woodpecker (NE Colorado)	22 October	11 October	25 September
Western Kingbird (Boulder County)	31 October	3 October	23 September
Barn Swallow (Denver)	28 October	25 October	10 October
Warbling Vireo (Denver)	12 October	11 October	23 September
Green-tailed Towhee (Eagle County)	25 October		Mid September
Lark Bunting (El Paso County)	28 November	7 October	19 September

Part II

This table summarizes the observations of a number of species of interest but for which it is not necessary to distinguish among individual observations because the pattern of occurence is sufficiently well-established and the total number of observations in the state is reasonably large.

Species	Total Birds	Dates	Location
Arctic Loon	6	OctNov.	Denver area
Northern Green Heron	5 2	9 Aug26 Nov.	Colorado
Little Blue Heron	2	21 Aug2 Oct.	Chatfield Reservoir
Cattle Egret	10	1 Aug24 Sept.	
Great Egret	11	14 Aug4 Oct.	E. Colorado
Least Bittern	2	1-3 Aug.	E. Colorado
American Bittern	2 2	25 Sept1 Oct.	E. Colorado
	1.	2 Oct.	Grand Junction
White-faced Ibis	3 5 2 1 6 4	31 Aug4 Sept.	Denver area
Whistling Swan	5	28 Oct 28 Nov.	Denver area
White-fronted Goose	2	8 Nov.	Barr Lake
Ross' Goose	1	26 Oct.	Delta
Wood Duck	6	9 AugNov.	Denver area
	4	25 Aug15 Nov.	W. Colorado
Barrow's Goldeneye	80+	by end of Nov.	Granby
	1 3	21 Nov.	Denver area
01dsquaw	3	20-21 Nov.	Cherry Creek Reservoir
White-winged Scoter	7	27 Oct.	Cherry Creek Reservoir
Red-breasted Merganser	27	OctNov.	Denver area
Hooded Merganser	2 6	27 Sept8 Nov.	Front Range
Mississippi Kite	4	28 Aug.	Lamar
Goshawk	6 5	Sept-Nov.	Denver area
Broad-winged Hawk	5	17 Sept4 Oct.	E. Colorado
Bald Eagle	22	1 Oct29 Nov.	

Part II (cont'd)

Species	Total Birds	Dates	Location
Osprey	16	9 Sept10 Nov.	Statewide
Peregrine Falcon	3	16 Aug-12 Nov.	Statewide
Whooping Crane	?	17 SeptNov.	Monte Vista NWR
Snowy Plover	i	3 Sept.	SW Colorado
Mountain Plover	ī	3 Sept.	Steamboat Springs
American Golden Plover	5	12 Sept5 Nov.	Barr Lake
Black-bellied Ployer	14	16 Aug28 Oct.	E. Colorado
Whimbrel	ī	12 Sept.	Barr Lake
Upland Sandpiper	3	4 Aug10 Aug.	E. Colorado
Red Knot	2	7 Aug5 Sept.	E. Colorado
White-rumped Sandpiper	4	4 Aug.	NE Colorado
Dunlin	i	3 Oct.	Chatfield Reservoir
Sabine's Gull	6	26 Sept18 Oct.	
Common Tern	7	9 Aug26 Sept.	E. Colorado
Black-billed Cuckoo	í	23 Aug.	NE Colorado
Barn Owl	10	11 Sept4 Oct.	E. Colorado
Pygmy Owl	5	7 SeptNov.	Statewide
Long-eared Owl	3	13 SeptNov.	E. Colorado
Short-eared Owl	ğ	14-22 Nov.	E. Colorado
Saw-whet Owl	6	9 Aug24 Oct.	Statewide
Common Poor-will	ĭ	12 Oct.	Boulder
Black Swift	23	2-23 Aug.	Statewide
Calliope Hummingbird	10	1-30 Aug.	Statewide
Cassin's Kingbird +	2	13-17 Sept.	Denver area
Eastern Phoebe	3	11 Aug5 Sept.	NE Colorado
Least Flycatcher	3	8 Aug12 Sept.	E. Colorado
Gray Flycatcher +	1	1 Aug.	Canon City
Pinyon Jay +	65+	7 SeptOct.	Boulder area
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3-4 Oct.	Bonny Reservoir
Winter Wren	ī	11 Oct.	Boulder
Curve-billed Thrasher	7	1 Aug31 Oct.	Pueblo, Colo. Springs
Wood Thrush	ì	1 Nov.	Boulder
Eastern Bluebird	ī	26 Oct.	Pueblo
Bohemian Waxwing	41	7-29 Nov.	Front Range
Philadelphia Vireo	3	12 Sept3 Oct.	Denver area
Black-and-White Warbler	9	18 Aug26 Sept.	
Worm-eating Warbler	ī	11 Oct.	Boulder
Tennessee Warbler	13	31 Aug4 Oct.	Statewide
Nashville Warbler	18	18 Aug28 Sept.	
Magnolia Warbler	4	27 Aug23 Sept.	
Black-throated Blue	4	21 Sept3 Nov.	E. Colorado
Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler	2	3 Aug18 Nov.	Front Range
Townsend's Warbler	24	15 Aug . 22 Oct	Statouido
Black-throated Green	24	15 Aug22 Oct.	Statewide Donuer area
Warbler	۷	29 Aug6 Sept.	Denver area

Part II (cont'd)

Species	Total Birds	Dates	Location
	4	21 4	
Blackburnian Warbler	1	31 Aug.	Longmont
Grace's Warbler +	1	1 Aug	Rye
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	21 Sept11 Oct.	Front Range
Palm Warbler	1	4 Oct.	Boulder
Ovenbird	2	<pre>16 Aug-7 Sept.</pre>	Front Range
Northern Waterthrush	5	23 Aug-17 Sept.	E. Colorado
American Redstart	17	9 Aug11 Oct.	Statewide
Rusty Blackbird	3	21 Nov.	Colorado Springs
Great-tailed Grackle	17	to 19 Nov.	Durango (nested), Salida
Scarlet Tanager	1	3 Oct.	Evergreen Area
Cardinal	1	3-4 Oct.	Bonny Reservoir
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	22 Aug10 Sept.	Boulder County
Blue Grosbeak	16	26 Aug13 Sept.	Front Range
Indigo Bunting	21	1 Aug-13 Sept.	Statewide
Common Redpoll	14	14 Oct.	Boulder
White-winged Crossbill	8	20 Aug4 Oct.	Echo Lake, Pike's Peak
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	12 Sept.	Boulder
Cassin's Sparrow	2	5 Sept.	El Paso County
Harris' Sparrow	8	OctNov.	Denver Area
White-throated Sparrow	9	4 Oct28 Nov.	E. Colorado
Fox Sparrow	4	1 Aug6 Oct.	E. Colorado
Swamp Sparrow	2	31 Oct12 Nov.	

⁺ Indicates only part of the state is considered. Areas where the species is most common are excluded.

Part III

The following observations are considered to be notable enough that they warrant being listed individually.

Red-throated Loon(*) - 1 at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co., 20-21 November (DFO).

Brant(*) - 1 at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe Co., 24 October to 2 November (m. ob.). There is some question as to whether or not this bird was an escape.

Wood Duck - 1 on 15 November at Delta, Delta Co., (MJ) first Delta latilong record.

Black Scoter(*) - 1 at Clover Basin Res., Boulder Co., 21-23 November (PG). This species remains the rarest of the three scoters in Colorado.

Ruffed Grouse(*) - 1 in the foothills west of Boulder, Boulder Co., 16 October (SO). There are no well documented records of this species from the State.

Pectoral Sandpiper - 1 at Fruitgrowers Res., Delta Co., 27 October (MJ). First Delta latilong record.

White-rumped Sandpiper - 1 at Chatfield Res., 6 September (FJJ). This species is rarely reported along the Front Range.

Part III (cont'd)

Dunlin - 3 at Fruitgrowers Res., Delta Co., 3 October (MJ) first for Delta latilong.

Short-billed Dowitcher(*) - 1 in Northeast Colorado, 23 August. (KK) Buff-breasted Sandpiper(*) - 4 at Prewitt Res., Washington Co., 5-6 September (RA).

Red Phalarope(*) - 1 at Barr Lake, Adams Co., 10-11 October (HK). Caspian Tern(*) - 1 at Antero Res., Park Co., 16 August (HK). This may

represent the first fall record of this species in the state.

Groove-billed Ani(\star) - 1 found dead west of Loveland, Larimer Co., 22 October (MD and CC). This is the first specimen of this species for the

Magnificent Hummingbird(*) - 1 at San Isabel, Custer Co., 2 August (CCh and RB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at Crow Valley Park, Weld Co., 4 August (CCh and RB), first for the Greeley latilong.

Varied Thrush(*) - 1 at Silverthorne, Summit Co., 21 August (MJB).

This early date is amazing.

Phainopepla(\star) - 6 at Boulder, Boulder Co., 4 October (FH). A flock of 6 Phainopeplas in this state is nothing short of incredible.

Philadelphia Vireo(*) - 1 at Durango, La Plata Co., 14 August (EF).

There are only one or two records of this bird from the west slope.

Tennessee Warbler - 1 at the Escalante Wildlife Management area, Delta Co., 10-11 September (MJ), a first for the Delta latilong.

Nashville Warbler - 1 at the Escalante Wildlife Management area, Delta
Co., 11 September (MJ), first Delta latilong record.

Northern Waterthrush - 1 along the Colorado River in the Eagle latilong 19 August (DJ) a first for this latilong.

Brown Towhee - 1 near Lyons, Boulder Co., 6 August to 4 September (HL). This species is not usually seen this far north in the State.

Baird's Sparrow(*) - 1 at Baseline Res., Boulder Co., 7 September There are many reports of this species from the State, however, very few of them are well documented.

Clay-colored Sparrow - 7 at Swietzer Lake, Delta Co., September (MJ),

first Delta latilong record.

* indicates records being reviewed by the C.F.O. records committee.

Initialed observers and organizations:

Robert Andrews (RA), Mary Jane Black (MJB), Richard Bunn(RB), Charlie Chase (CCh), Camille Cummings (CC), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Marjorie Dugan (MD), Elva Fox (EF), Peter Gent (PG), Freeman Hall (FH), Mark Janos (MJ), David Jasper (DJ), Frank and Jan Justice (FJJ), Hugh Kingery (HK), Kate Kittleman (KK), Helen Leichliter (HL), Sue Olmstead (SO), many observers (m.ob.).

DISTRIBUTION AND NESTING REQUIREMENTS OF MONTANE
FOREST OWLS IN COLORADO
Part II: Northern Pygmy Owl (GLAUCIDIUM GNOMA)
and Boreal Owl (AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS)
By Bruce Webb
5657 Cazadero Way, Sacromento, CA 95822

The Pygmy Owl breeds from lower through upper montane regions in Colorado, up to 3657 m (12,000 ft) in elevation (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). The numerous Colorado reports of Pygmy Owls involve sightings during late fall and winter, when birds seek lower elevations, rather than sightings during the breeding season. In winter they are occasionally found near backyard bird feeders, but they also frequent wooded ravines with low bushy vegetation (pers. obs.). Eleven dated specimens at the Denver Museum of Natural History support the belief that more is known about Pygmy Owl winter distribution than their breeding distribution. Eight specimens were collected in fall or winter months, and only three in spring or summer months. Historical records of Northern Pygmy Owls are summarized in Figure 1.

Survey

Only one Pygmy Owl was heard during the two survey seasons, on 9 April in latilong block 19, approximately 15.4 km west of Colorado Springs in Ponderosa Pine-Douglas Fir stand in Queen's Canyon, El Paso County. Prior to this study, I observed Pygmy Owls on two occasions during the summer months. On 22 May 1977 one adult was observed during the day in an aspen hole in aspen-Ponderosa Pine stand on the Uncompangre Plateau. In 1978 that same hole was occupied by nesting Flammulated Owls. On 15 August 1977 one Pygmy Owl was observed in pinyon-juniper woodland at Lee Gulch, southwest of Meeker, Rio Blanco County.

Supplemental response followups

M. Alan Jenkins, Raptor Biologist at the Denver Wildlife Research Center, responded to the 1978 CFO Journal Notice, reporting an adult and two recently fledged Pygmy Owls along the North Fork of the Poudre River, Larimer County. Followup action involved a phone conversation with Jenkins and a search in the location described, and nearby wooded canyons. My searches were unsuccessful.

Peter Gent of Boulder reported observing a calling Pygmy Owl in a ponderosa pine-Douglas fir stand on Flagstaff Mountain, Boulder County, mid-April 1978. My followup action on later dates failed to reveal its presence. Dr. Ronald A. Ryder of Colorado State University related a report by a Ft. Collins birdwatcher near Horsetooth Reservoir, west of Ft. Collins. I surveyed the west side of Horsetooth Reservoir in a ponderosa pine habitat, without success.

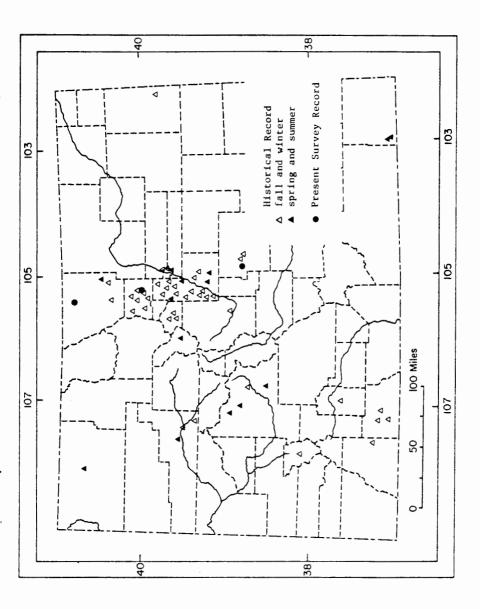


Figure 1. Historical and Present Survey Distributional Records of Northern Pygmy Owl in Colorado.

Discussion

Relative to other small owls, the breeding season reports from all sources, including museum specimens, cooperator sighting, and the present survey efforts, indicate this owl to be less widespread than formerly suspected. This relatively scanty distribution is difficult to understand because their prey species, invertebrates, small passerines, and small mammals are widely distributed and common in Colorado. Coexistence of Pygmy and Flammulated Owls in mixed aspen-coniferous forests should not involve competition for food. The Flammulated is insectivorous and nocturnal; whereas the Pygmy Owl feeds on invertebrates and small vertebrates and has both diurnal and nocturnal habits. In fact, Pygmy Owls differ from other species of coniferous forest owls by the preponderence of small birds in their diet (Snyder and Wiley, 1976). Thus, interspecific competition between these two species for food probably is minimal.

Pinyon-juniper generally is not cited as suitable nesting habitat for this species. The mid-August record in pinyon-juniper habitat type in latilong block 8 may have been due to post-breeding individual wandering downslope. Intensive bird censusing work there every week by me prior to the mid-August record did not reveal the presence of Pygmy Owls.

Boreal Owl (AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS)

Bailey and Niedrach (1965) listed only four Boreal Owl records prior to 1965. In more recent years there have been an increasing number of records, mostly of disabled or roadkilled owls. The increase in reports is almost certainly a result of greater coverage and public awareness, rather than an increase in owl population size. The region of nearly all recent reports has been within Latilong Block 4 which includes Laramie and Grand Counties. Seven of the most recent eight reports (Table 1) are from this northern Colorado latilong. Historical records of Boreal Owls are summarized in Figure 2.

The documentation of recently fledged Boreal Owls in the vicinity of Deadman Lookout by Baldwin and Koplin (1966) established the Boreal Owl as a likely breeder in Colorado. The juvenile plumaged young birds were undoubtedly raised from a local nest. Based on this and other Colorado distributional records, they proposed that the Boreal Owl exists as a Pleistocene relict in high mountainous portions of the state.

Nesting survey

On 9-10 June 1978, evening surveys were conducted along 12.7 km of the road from North Fork of the Poudre Campground to Deadman Hill Summit. No Boreal Owls were heard; however, one distant Saw-whet Owl was heard on 15 July 1978 at 3109 m elevation (10,200 ft). One adult Boreal Owl was observed on 15 July 1978 0.5 mi northwest of Deadman Lookout, Larimer County at 3292 m (10,800 ft) elevation. The characteristic stand type at this location was dense Englemann spruce and

TABLE 1

RECORDS OF BOREAL OWL IN COLORADO (HISTORICAL AND PRESENT SURVEY)

Date	Number	Locality	Count y	Latilong	Source
1. Dec 2, 1977	l observed	7.3 km S of Grand Lake	Grand	4	DMNH - CFO files
2. Feb 2, 1978	l specimen DMNH	Evergreen	Jefferson	11	DMNH-CFO files
3. Feb 6, 1978	l specimen CSU Museum	Estes Park	Larimer	4	DMNH-CFO files
4. Jul 15,1978	l observed adult	0.8 km NE Deadman Lookout	Larimer	4	B E Webb (present survey)
5. Jun 25-27, 1979	l heard	0.8 km S Deadman Lookout	Larimer	4	B E Webb (present survey)
6. Summer,1978	l captured & released	Rocky Mountain Natl Park, W entrance	Grand	4	M Alpert (pers. comm.)
7. Late Feb- early Mar, 1979	l captured specimen CSU Museum	on Colorado Hwy 14 W of Rustic	Larimer	4	B Morony (fide R Ryder)
8. Jul 14,1979	l specimen DMNH	fresh roadkill on Trail Ridge Road at Milner Pass	Grand	4	N Green (pers. comm.)

CFO: Colorado Field Ornithologists Journal; CSU Museum: Colorado State University Museum; DMNH: Denver Museum of Natural History.

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subalpine fir forest with extensive fallen timber understory. The owl was perched at a point 10-12 m within the forest edge, beyond which a recent burn left little fallen timber. An extensive, two-day daylight search to locate its nest, roost sites or fledged juveniles was unsuccessful. Return visits to Deadman Lookout Road in 1979 included three evenings of work from 25 through 27 June, when one Boreal Owl, (possibly two) was heard calling several times but was not observed. Daylight searches for active nest cavities were unsuccessful. Return visits on 30 June, and 6-7 July did not yield any owls calling in the Deadman Lookout vicinity. The characteristic stand type along the Lookout road is extensive, mature spruce-fir forest with little understory.

Unsuccessful surveys were conducted in the vicinity of other high mountain passes. These include: Berthoud, Guanella, Hoosier, Loveland, Molas Divide, Monarch, Mt. Evans road, Rabbit Ears, Red Hill, and Wolf Creek passes. Recent efforts by Dr. Ronald Ryder in the vicinity of Chambers Lake and Cameron Pass, Larimer County, have revealed several calling Boreal Owls.

Supplemental survey

In the summer of 1978, Meredith Alpert, naturalist at Rocky Mountain National Park, photographed a captive Boreal Owl. The owl was discovered trapped in a chimney of a Grand Lake entrance park service building. On 14 July 1979, Nancy Green, a BLM Biologist, found a roadkilled Boreal Owl at Milner Pass 3070 m (10,400 ft) elevation on Trail Ridge Road. On 8 August 1979, daylight and nocturnal surveys of habitat at that spot were unsuccessful. The daylight search in the spruce-fir stand was made with Nancy Green accompanying me. The owl was deposited at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

On 9 August 1978, the area near the Virginia Mine above Gothic near Crested Butte, Gunnison County, was traversed on foot with Dr. William Calder, who photographed a Boreal Owl there on 31 August 1971 in spruce-fir-aspen stand. Spruce-fir habitat 4.8 km north of Gothic was surveyed on 10 August 1978, but no owls were heard. On 15 June 1973, G.R. Craig picked up a roadkilled Boreal Owl on the west slope of Rabbit Ears Pass, Routt County. I surveyed both east and west approaches to Rabbit Ears summit in spruce-fir stands for Boreal Owls on 8 April 1978, 13 May 1978 and 21-23 July 1978. No Boreal Owls were heard; however, on 21 July one Saw-whet Owl was observed closely at length and another was heard calling in the distance. In mid-May 1979, an out-of-state birdwatcher reported hearing a possible Boreal Owl along Geneva Creek in the vicinity of Grant, Park County. On 25 May 1979 I surveyed there in the spruce-fir stand habitat. Several Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago) were heard winnowing, but no owls were heard.

Discussion

Eckert and Savaloja (1979) describe a single Boreal Owl nest found in extreme northern Minnesota. The nest was in a dead Black

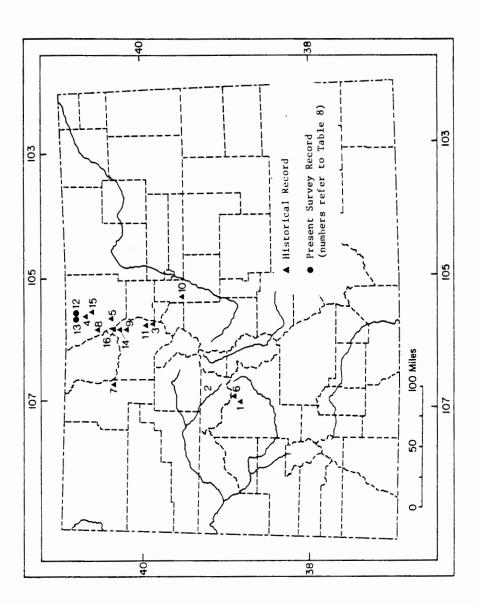


Figure 2. Historical and Present Survey Distributional Records of Boreal Owl in Colorado.

Spruce (<u>Picea mariana</u>) stump which measured 3.4 m high and 30.5 cm in diameter. The entrance hole located 30.5 cm from the top measured 7.6 cm in diameter and 30.5 cm deep. Aspen trees as well as either types of conifers were in the area. The diameter of the nest hole is near in size to nest holes used by Saw-whet Owls found in my study in Colorado.

The two instances of Saw-whet Owls occurring at high elevations where Boreal Owls had been reported points to a possibility of ecological overlap between these two congeners. The major questions to be addressed in future studies of Boreal Owl should concern dietary and habitat overlap with Saw-whet Owl. Analysis of pellets and selective mammal trapping at roost sites of both species could reveal the degree of prey species overlap. Further details on roost sites, nest hole trees, and foraging locations will determine the extent of ecological overlap between these species. Radio-telemetry studies could prove useful in any studies on habitat utilization.

The Boreal Owl may be susceptible to perturbations and habitat alterations. Population parameters, including reproductive attributes, population fluctuations, and territory sizes, should be determined so that wise management decisions can be made. There is considerable logging activity in progress near Deadman Lookout which could have a detrimental effect on this relict population.

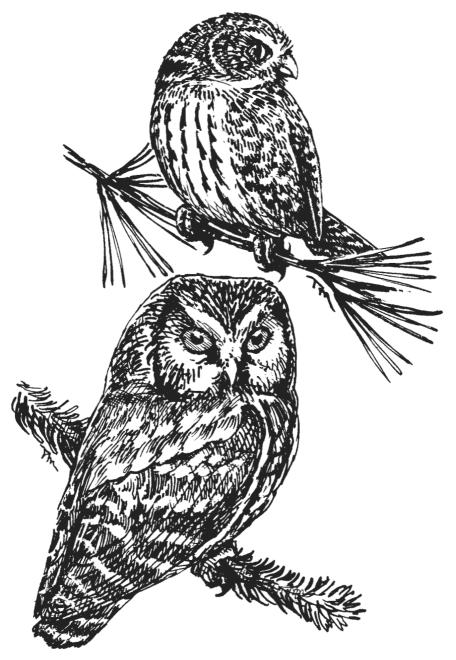
Due to late lying snow at higher elevations, few observers reach suitable nesting habitat during the vocal courtship phase of the species' early nesting cycle. This probably accounts for the few numbers of breeding records.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NORTHERN PYGMY OWL and BOREAL OWL. Sketch by Tim Manolis of Sacramento.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1982 ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Peter Gent 55 South 35th St., Boulder, CO 80303

The twentieth annual convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held during the weekend of 11-13 June 1982 on the campus of Western State College in Gunnison. There were about fifty attendees several of whom were from the local Gunnison Naturalists Club, and we thank them for their kind hospitality. On Saturday morning Brad Shaw led the field trip to a local Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron rookery and to Curecanti National Recreation Area. A possible Least Flycatcher was heard near to the rookery. After lunch Peter Gent introduced the following speakers in the papers session:

Changes in Some Avian Winter Biogeographic Patterns from 1900 to 1972. Terry Root (speaker) and Carl Bock, Dept. of E.P.O. Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder.

National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count data provide an excellent way to examine vast, spatial and temporal changes in winter biogeographic patterns of birds. These data have been collected over the entire United States since 1900. In this study we used these data to examine range expansions and shifts in centers of abundances of sixteen avian species. A set of two maps were generated of these species' biogeographic patterns in the conterminous United States from 1900 to 1939 and from 1970 to 1972. By comparing these maps we found significant changes in the distribution and/or abundance patterns of all but one of these species. We postulated that the major causes of these changes were human impact, climatic changes, and adaptability of the individual species to habitat modifications. The impact of humans on the environment was, by far, the most important factor causing the changes.

Survey of Nongame Birds and Mammals in Scrub Oak on the Uncompangre Plateau. Joan Friedlander (speaker) and David Langlois, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Montrose.

To better understand nongame wildlife use of scrub oak areas in southwestern Colorado, we surveyed birds and mammals in a 410 hectare scrub oak-serviceberry association on the Uncompangre Plateau. Our study area was characterized by widely-spaced, sparse clumps of oak separated by patches of sagebrush. Within the oak stand we found 59 bird and 15 mammal species. This information may be useful in developing wildlife management guidelines for scrub oak areas.

The Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory. Beth Lapin, Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory, Denver.

The Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory was established in 1979 through cooperative efforts of The Nature Conservancy and the State of Colorado, Natural Areas Program to conduct a comprehensive, ongoing inventory of the state's natural diversity. The purpose of the inventory

is to compile accurate information on the status and location of rare and endangered species, plant communities, aquatic systems, and geologic features (the elements of natural diversity) in order to provide a basis for informed environmental decision-making and to systematically identify significant natural areas. Data are obtained by searching museums, researching the literature, performing field work, and contacting knowledgeable individuals. Distributional information is located as accurately as possible on 7 1/2' topographic maps and computerized, along with the date and source of information. Ecological data are kept on file for each species. The zoological portion of the data base covers vertebrates and invertebrates; every effort is made to solicit data from all sectors of the scientific community. Lists of species of special biological concern are established with the assistance of knowledgeable zoologists and are periodically revised. Data are constantly updated. Avian contributions to the data base from amateur ornithologists are greatly encouraged.

Distribution and Status of Grebes Nesting in Colorado. Ronald Ryder, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

Three species of grebes regularly nest in Colorado. The Pied-billed Grebe is the most widespread breeding in 23 of 28 latilong blocks, the Eared Grebe probably nests in 16 blocks, and the Western Grebe in 10 blocks. Whereas the Pied-billed Grebe commonly nests solitarily, both the Eared and Western Grebes are highly colonial. Over 1,500 nests of Eared Grebes have been recorded on Walden Reservoir in North Park while 100-150 pairs of Western Grebes have nested on Timnath Reservoir near Fort Collins. Both Eared and Westerns seem to be "boom or bust" species with complete failures some years and very successful hatches in other years. Nesting studies of Pied-billed Grebes indicate more consistent hatching success with that species.

President Timms Fowler then conducted the Business Meeting and thanked Terry Root, who stepped down as co-editor of the CFO Journal, and Warner Reeser and Kevin Cook who were this years' retiring Directors. Bill Ervin of Boulder and Vic Zerbi of Glenwood Springs were elected to replace them as directors for the next three years. Timms outlined several ideas designed to recruit new members to CFO which were an introductory letter to CFO outlining its aims, benefits, and activities, bumper stickers of the CFO logo, and T-shirts (to be available soon). All CFO members are encouraged to obtain these items from their local directors and to go out and recruit new members for CFO. Frank Justice, Peter Gent, and Charles Chase reported briefly on the state of the treasury, CFO Journal, and the Records Committee respectively. Bob Farris of Tulsa, Oklahoma then showed some delightful slides of birds taken throughout North America. After the social hour and banquet, William Calder of the Rocky Mountain Biological Research Laboratory in Gothic, and the University of Arizona at Tucson gave an extremely interesting talk about his work at Gothic entitled "Hummingbirds and their Secrets."

On Sunday the 13th, Theo Colborn led the field trip past Crested Butte to the Rocky Mountain Biological Research Laboratory in Gothic. There we were welcomed and given a short talk and tour by the present director, and son of the founder, Dr. J.C. Johnson. Unusual birds seen on the trip were two Blue Grouse, Pine Grosbeaks, and the western race of the Fox Sparrow.

THE CFO BREEDING BIRD TRIP TO LATILONG 9

By Peter Gent 55 South 35th St., Boulder, CO 80303

The annual CFO latilong breeding bird trip this year was to the Glenwood Springs latilong, number 9, on the weekend of June 26 and 27, 1982. On the Saturday morning we met at Kiwanis Park in Glenwood Springs which is by the Roaring Fork river. Several Common Grackles were there feeding young; our first latilong change because, amazingly, they had not been documented in the latilong before. We obtained another breeding record soon afterwards when Vic Zerbi, our local host and guide, showed us nesting Rough-winged Swallows. We then went to a nearby small lake where we saw both Eared Grebe and Ruddy Ducks in very suitable habitat for nesting. In the nearby Pinon-Juniper we found a young Brown-headed Cowbird being fed by a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, changing its status to breeding. We also found a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches, there, changing its status from no records at all to possibly breeding. We also saw a few small flocks of Pinon Jays, a species regularly observed there in its nesting habitat in summer, thus changing its latilong status to possibly breeding.

In the afternoon we went to a Scrub Oak habitat and there found the nest of a Virginia's Warbler. It was on the ground under a small Scrub Oak bush, and we found it by flushing the bird. The nest contained three warbler eggs and a Brown-headed Cowbird egg, which we removed. Finally on Saturday we went to a beautiful Aspen grove by the Sunlight ski area. We returned to this area early on Sunday morning and quickly found a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets displaying, defending a particular conifer tree and building a nest in it. We then found some Violet-green Swallows nesting in the Aspen trees. On the road past the ski area we went into a coniferous forest habitat that had some Aspen trees and open meadows. There we found both Brown Creepers and Red Crossbills in a very suitable nesting habitat. On Sunday afternoon we went into a beautiful large Pinon pine habitat near Glenwood Springs and found several of the Pinon-Juniper species. We were unable to confirm breeding for any of them, and had to content ourselves with a nice view of a Black Swift circling overhead.

A total of 88 indigenous and three introduced species were seen during the weekend. There were 12 changes of status for species in latilong 9; six to confirmed breeding and six to possibly breeding. Altogether 10 observers helped during the weekend, but only three of them were there both days. This was a disappointing turnout which meant that we were always in only one party, thus the area of latilong 9 we covered was very small; essentially a small area surrounding Glenwood Springs. An updated version of the latilong study will soon be available from Frank Justice. This is a much expanded version of the original, and is an essential part of all CFO members libraries. Despite this update, it is obvious that there is still plenty of work to do for the latilong study, especially in the less well birded latilongs. Good examples were no records of White-breasted Nuthatch and Common Grackle and only winter

records of Pinon Jay and Red Crossbill in latilong 9. Observers in most latilongs can still find latilong updates fairly easily, and I encourage you to do so.

Observers

Mary Fischer Peter Gent Betsy Kerse Bill Kerse Nyla Kladder Mark Janos Bob Jickling Bernie Rios Barbara Steiner Vic Zerbi

Species and latilong changes

M to b Eared Grebe Mallard Gadwall Cinnamon Teal M to b Ruddy Duck Turkey Vulture Sharp-shinned Hawk Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel American Coot Killdeer Common Snipe Band-tailed Pigeon Rock Dove Mourning Dove Common Nighthawk Black Swift White-throated Swift Broad-tailed Hummingbird Rufous Hummingbird Belted Kingfisher Common Flicker Lewis' Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Hairy Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Western Kingbird Dusky Flycatcher Gray Flycatcher Western Flycatcher Western Wood Pewee Olive-sided Flycatcher Violet-green Swallow b to B Rough-winged Swallow b to B Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Steller's Jav Scrub Jay

Black-billed Magpie Common Raven Pinon Jay ₩ to b Clark's Nutcracker Black-capped Chickadee Mountain Chickadee Plain Titmouse Bushtit White-breasted Nuthatch - to b Red-breasted Nuthatch Brown Creeper M to b House Wren Gray Catbird American Robin Hermit Thrush Mountain Bluebird Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Ruby-crowned Kinglet b to B Starling Solitary Vireo Warbling Vireo Orange-crowned Warbler Virginia's Warbler b to B Yellow Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler Wilson's Warbler House Sparrow Western Meadowlark Yellow-headed Blackbird Red-winged Blackbird Northern Oriole Brewer's Blackbird Common Grackle - to B Brown-headed Cowbird b to B Western Tanager Black-headed Grosbeak Lazuli Bunting

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Species and latilong changes (cont'd)

Evening Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
Red Crossbill W to b
Green-tailed Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Gray-headed Junco
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow

TAXONOMY CLINIC

The Denver Museum of Natural History is presenting the fifth annual Taxonomy/Identification Clinic, Saturday, 25 September 1982 starting at 9 am. Dr. Allan Phillips, one of the nation's leading taxonomists will preside. The main emphasis of this clinic will be the field identification of subspecies in Colorado. Please register by phone (575-3911) or by mail: DMNH, Attn. Charles Chase, City Park, Denver, CO 80205. When registering, please submit requests for material you would like to see covered. Only 25 spaces are available, and the cost is \$5, which covers expenses.

FIELD TRIP

Sunday, 3 October. Bonny Reservoir for Fall Migrants. Leader Peter Gent (H) 494-1750. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Wagon Wheel Campground on the south side of Bonny Reservoir for this all day trip.

