

C.F.O. Journal

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C.F.O. JOURNAL

A quarterly publication of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, c/o Kate Kittleman, 217 Lois Drive, Louisville, Colorado 80027.

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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: Ann Bodzson & Steve Bissell, 6060 Broadway, Denver. Send rare bird reports to: CFO Official Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With this, the last issue of 1983, we are including a directory of C.F.O. members. This is done at the request of members at last spring's business meeting. The directory is designed so that you can remove it if you wish. Please check it carefully and let Frank Justice know if it needs any corrections.

Errata in Volume 17, Number 3. We failed to number the issue correctly with the rest of the volume. Thus page 1=53, 2=54, etc., etc., 20=72. We apologize to Bill and Inez Prather for misspelling their names.

Instructions for Potential Contributors. The C.F.O. Journal is largely informal, however articles are restricted to Ornithological topics with special emphasis on Colorado bird watching. Articles do not need to be written in any particular style, but a recent issue should be consulted for general format. Photos and drawings should be in sharp-contrast black and white if at all possible, however we will try to reproduce any material available. Short, anecdotal articles and unusual observations are especially encouraged. Membership in the Colorado Field Ornithologists is not required, however, C.F.O. members will be given preference.

Steven J. Bissell and Ann B. Hodgson

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT
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 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, 1982). 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 (Denver, Chairman), Kevin Cook (Fort Collins), Ed Hollowed (Meeker), Steve Larson (Boulder), Tim Manolis (Boulder), Ron Ryder (Fort Collins), and James Sedgewick (Fort Collins). The following new members have replaced certain outgoing members and have been involved in some if not all records reviewed herein: Richard Bunn (Colorado Springs), Peter Gent (Boulder), Mark Holmgren (Boulder), Mark Janos (Delta).

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.

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

Yellow-billed Loon, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Tricolored 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 San Luis Valley), King Rail, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, American Woodcock, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Red Phalarope, all Jaegers, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Caspian Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Anna's, Magnificent, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black

Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Martin (E. Slope only), Sedge Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Varied Thrush, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Sprague's Pipit, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia 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

Common Black-Hawk (Buteogallus anthracinus). One reported (10-80-83) 20 & 21 June 1980 by R. Andrews and K. Kittleman (separate observations) at Chatfield State Recreation Area. Underwing and tail diagnostic characters clearly noted in both reports.

Mew Gull (Larus canus). One observed and well photographed (23-80-17) 7 March 1980 at Sloans Lake, Denver Co., by R. Andrews, C. Chase, M. Holmgren and R. Rozinski. This first winter gull was flying with several Ring-billed Gulls and was unusual in the dark stain on the lower breast and belly. (For additional record see Part III).



Photos by R. Rozinski

Glaucous-winged Gull (Larus glaucescens). One observed and photographed (23-82-72) 25 July 1981 at Antero Reservoir, Park Co. The first summer bird in extremely worn plumage only remained in the area for a few days. Report by C. Chase and P. Gent.



Photo by C. Chase

Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus mermoratus mermoratus). One picked up from road in Aspen, Pitkin Co., on 22 August 1982 subsequently died and is in the Denver Museum of Natural History (37691). While this is the first record for Colorado there were 3 other inland records during the same fall of the asiatic race of this bird.

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

Common Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus). One observed and photographed (23-80-24) on Tower Road, Adams Co., 14 August 1977. This well photographed bird demonstrates all diagnostic characters of a 1st winter Bonapartes' Gull (especially the upper and lower wing patterns) except for a larger than normal bill.



Photo by P. Moulton

Common Ground Dove (Columbina passerina). One observed (25-81-63) at Tamarack Ranch, Logan Co., on 17 December 1981. Excellent details however, since this was a single observer report with no photos or specimen, this species must remain on the hypothetical list.

Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa). One observed (28-81-49) several times near Buena Vista during the 1981 summer. The minimal details provided in the report preclude an adequate review by the R.C.

Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus). Two observed (33-82-75) at Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, Ouray Co., 10 August 1982. The single report received of this observation does not contain an adequate description to eliminate all other possibilities, especially Williamson's Sapsucker.

White-headed Woodpecker (Picoides albolarvatus). One observed (33-83-3) near Craig, Moffat Co., last of June through 1st of July. Sketchy details and failure to eliminate albinism result in this report not being considered for the state list.

Black-chinned Sparrow (Spizella atrogularis). One observed (56-81-32) near Berthoud, Larimer Co., 26 November 1980. Inadequate details to fully eliminate similar species (Juncos).

Part III -- Reports of Rare Species

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

Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea). Immature bird (5-81-60) at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson Co., 21 August 1981, (RH).

Black-bellied Tree Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis). One (8-81-59) at Silt, Garfield Co., 28 April 1981, (RP). 2nd record for Colorado; likely escapee.

Brant (Branta bernicla). One observed (8-81-58) feeding, flying and associating with Coots at Cherry Creek Reservoir, 24-31 October 1981, (FP, H & UK) 6th state record.

Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicaria). One winter plumaged (21-81-54) at Barr Lake, Adams Co., 10 October 1981 (H & UK). 10th record.

Mew Gull (Larus canus). One adult (23-82-71) Sloans Lake, Denver Co., 22 March 1982 (BR). 2nd state record (Photograph).



Photo by B. J. Rose

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). One breeding plumaged bird (23-81-55) at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., 16 August 1981 (H & UK). 7th record.

Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). One photographed (28-82-54) at Amphitheatre Trail, Boulder Co., on 7 November 1982 (D & LJ). 15 record.



Photo by D. Johnson

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). Two observed and photographed on several dates (28-81-48) in April and May, Corral Park, Larimer County (DP, RR). 1st nesting record. Attempt failed and eggs are in DMNH collection.



Photo by D. Palmer

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger). 10 observed (30-81-28) at Zapata Falls, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, 4 July 1981 (JM). Both this area and up Mosca Creek at the Monument should be good nesting sites (ed.).

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger). 2 observed (30-81-62) Lake Cata-mountain, Steamboat Springs, Routt Co., on 22 August 1981 (CA).

Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna). One male (31-81-5) Beulah, Pueblo Co., 27 September - 8 October 1977 (P & WS). 4th record.

Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus). One male (33-8-46) Bonny Reservoir, Yuma Co., 23 & 24 March 1981. (RB). Quite out of expected range!

Gray Flycatcher (Empidonax wrightii). Four observed (34-81-38) Temple Canyon, Fremont Co., 25 May 1981 (RB). Several also collected same week by DMNH at same locality (ed).

Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis). One observed 44-80-77) with westerns at Hotchkiss, Delta Co., 17 December 1977. 1st west slope record.

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus). One banded (51-81-43) in Aurora, Arapahoe Co., 8 September 1980 (MS). 18th record - identified by 9th primary length in hand.

Grace's Warbler (Dendroica graciae). Three observed (52-81-44) Boulder, Boulder Co., on 18 October 1980 (PC).

Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus). One male (56-81-35) in Big Thompson Canyon, near Loveland, Larimer Co., 28-39 January 1980 (MHe). Winter record.

Dickcissel (Spiza americana). One breeding plumaged male (56-81-36) at Manitou Lake, near Woodland Park, Teller Co., 22 June 1981 (EW). 6th mountain record.

Black-throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata). 3 adults and 1 juvenile (56-81-31) at Baculite Mesa, Pueblo Co., June-July 1981 (RB). First east slope breeding record. (ed. notes) This species has now been found year-round in Pueblo and Las Animas Counties.

Bobolink (Dolichonyx oryzivorus). One male (56-81-34) near Berthoud, Larimer Co, on 28 January 1981 (CCu). Excellent details accompany this extraordinary date.

Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum). Nest located (54-81-57) at Morman Gap, Rio Blanco Co., summer 1981 (EH). This species is being found with increasing frequency along the Utah border.

White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera). 3 found (56-81-37) at Divide, Teller Co., 23 June 1981 (RB). Another record of the incredible crossbill year of 1981.

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

Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata). One (1-81-41) Bonny Reservoir, Yuma Co., 13 November 1980.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Two immature (23-81-56) Valmont Reservoir, Boulder Co., 8 December 1983.

Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca). One (28-81-47) Loveland, Larimer, 19 October 1980.

Black Phoebe (Sayornis nigricans). One (34-81-39) 2 May 1981 at Pastorius Reservoir, La Plata Co.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minima). One (44-81-42) Muir Springs, Fort Morgan, Morgan Co., 10 May 1980.

Spragues Pipit (Anthus spragueii). Many (46-81-50) Antero Reservoir, Park Co., June 1981.

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus). One (51-81-45, Durango, La Plata Co., 9 September 1980.

Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii). One (51-80-61), Ridgway, Ouray Co., 24 August 1980.

Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus). One adult male (52-80-82), La Jara, Conejos Co., 17 July 1980.

Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna). One (54-81-40) near Gunnison, Gunnison Co., 7-11 June 1980.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (Aimophila ruficeps). One (56-80-80) Boulder, Boulder Co., 14 September 1980.

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina). Several (56-81-30) Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., January-February 1980.

LeContes' Sparrow (Ammodramus leconteii). Two (56-80-58) Olympus Dam, Larimer Co., 15 May 1980.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Amospiza caudacuta). One (56-81-33) Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld Co., 27 December 1980.

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus). One male (56-77-9) Evergreen, Jefferson Co., 2 May 1976.

Contributors

Cary Atwood (CA), Robert Andrews (RA), Richard Bunn (RB), Pilk Carter (PC), Charles Chase (CC), Camille Cummings (CCu), Peter Gent (PG), Richard Heil (RH), Maxine Hennessee (MHe), Mark Holmgren (MH), Don & Lee Johnson (D&LJ), Hugh & Urling Kingery (H&UK), Kate Kittleman (KK), John Mangimeli (JM), David Palmer (DP), Ruth Parkinson (RP), Floyd Pendell (FP), B.J. Rose (BR), Ronald Ryder (RR), Mildred Snyder (MS), Pat & Ward Stryker (P&WS), Elinor Wills (EW).

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NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL NESTING AT CHATFIELD STATE RECREATION AREA

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On 28 April 1983, Jan Justice and a group of 8 fourth grade students from Schenck Elementary School found a Northern Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus) nest at Chatfield State Recreation Area. This is the first recorded nesting of the owl for Chatfield although saw-whets have been seen there in the past, 1 at the campground on 1 November 1981 and 1 near the Army Corp of Engineers gravel pits this summer (J. Justice, pers. comm.). The Northern Saw-whet Owl is considered an uncommon resident of the Lower Canadian and Transition zones in Colorado. Migrants may also come through the state in fall and winter but these can not be distinguished from resident owls (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). There are numerous nesting records in the state ranging in elevation from the foothills in Castlewood Canyon, Douglas County, to more than 2750 m (9000 ft.) near Redfeather Lakes in Larimer County (Webb 1982).

The nest at Chatfield was found while Jan was pointing out an old plains cottonwood (Populus sargentii) as an example of a prime wild-life snag. As she was talking about the value of such a tree, an adult saw-whet appeared in the entrance of a hole 1.5 m (4.5 ft.) high in the tree. Saw-whet owls, unlike screech owls, often appear at the entrance of the nest hole when the tree is tapped or a disturbance is created nearby (Bent 1961, pers. obs.). This behavior may be a method of concealing the nest cavity, as the cryptic coloration of the owl's face is similar to the bark of many trees in which it nests. When Jan checked back at the nest on 30 April, an adult again appeared at the entrance. Jan made no attempt to ascertain the contents of the nest, not wanting to disturb the adult. On 8 May, armed with a flashlight and mirror, Jan was able to see 3 owls in the nest cavity; whether they were adults or juveniles was not determined. Returning again on 12 May, with a better light and a group of birders, she discovered a side chamber in the cavity which held another owl, bringing the total to 4 in the nest. With the help of Kevin Cook, she was able to get one owl out of the nest hole (a tight fit). To everyone's astonishment, the owl was a juvenile, about 20-25 days old.

The next time she checked the nest was on 16 May when she arranged to meet me, in order to band the young owlets. When we checked the nest there was only 1 nestling, hiding well back in the hidden chamber, and an infertile egg. After removing the owlet and banding it (and a short photo session), we began to search for the other recently-fledged young. After twenty minutes searching in the rain, my assistant, Don DeLong, located 1, 2 m up in a box elder tree (Acer negundo) which was about 50-75 m from the nest tree. This owlet, when seeing our approach, assumed a typical saw-whet concealing posture (Catling

1972). We found another nestling close by in the same tree. Soon becoming accustomed to our presence, the owls grew quite tame, 1 even flying a short distance only to land on Jan's shoulder. We found no sign of the fourth nestling. We left the area after banding the young and placing them back on their original roosts. On 21 May, Jan located the owlet that was in the nest (by comparing band numbers) on our first visit. Interestingly, the owl was on the same branch on which its nestling was found previously. Neither of the others was located.

By back-dating from the fledging dates, we estimated that the hatching date was in mid-April (approximately 28 day fledging period (Burton 1973)) and the egg laying dates in mid-to late March (21-28 day incubation period (Sant 1938)). The nest fledged 4 young and had 1 infertile egg.

The habitat in which the nest was located was fairly typical cottonwood bottomlands with an understory of snowberry (Symphoricarpos spp.), wild cucumber (Cucurbita foetidissima) and clematis (Clematis spp.).

The Northern Saw-whet Owl, as discussed by Webb (1982), could be one of the most numerous small owls in Colorado, based on its adaptability to a wide variety of habitat types. Because of its diminutive size and secretive behavior however, it is rarely seen and only occasionally heard. The song is a series of high pitched whistles given from a perch near its nest or prospective nest. Although the owl can be heard at various times throughout the year (Johnson et al. 1979), the optimum time to hear its song is on a moonlit night in early spring. Its favored habitat is riparian areas but it can be found in most other areas of the state as well (Bailey and Niedrach 1965, Johnson et al. 1979). The owls are extremely vocal and respond well to tape recorded calls.

In addition to the above nest, 2 other nests were found in Colorado this spring. The first was near Fort Carson Army Base (S. Emmons, pers. comm.) and the other was near Rustic, Larimer County (nesting attempt in aspen failed after heavy snowfall in mid-May). Several sawwhets were heard calling in the front range area including 3 in Buckhorn Canyon, Larimer County (R. Kahn, CDDW, pers. comm.), several on the Manitou Experimental Forest in Teller County (R. Reynolds, USFS, pers. comm.) and 2 near Redfeather Lakes, Larimer County (pers. obs.). Also of note is a case of 5 saw-whets captured in mist nets in the Fraser Experimental Forest (T. Nicholls, USFS, pers. comm.) above 2750 m (9000 ft.). In addition to the saw-whets, Nicholls also captured a Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus), a close relative of the sawwhet, in mid-September, 1983.



Photo by Jan Justice



Photo by Jan Justice

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Photo by Jan Justice

SOUTHWEST BIRDWATCHING

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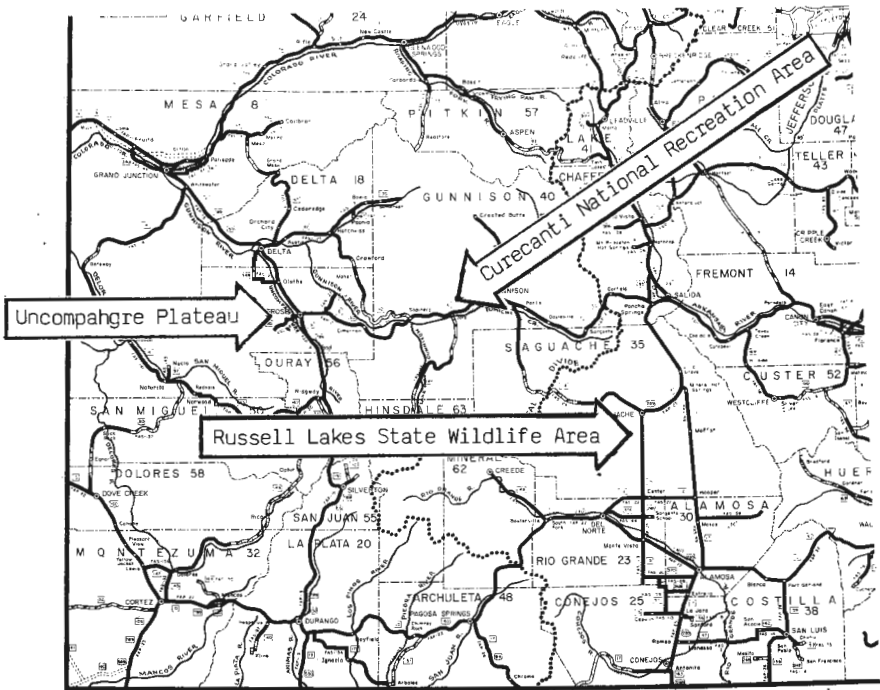
Birdwatching opportunities are about as diverse as the terrain in southwestern Colorado. No secret to the millions of people who visit there each year, the canyons, rivers, and mountains are among the most spectacular in the state. Birdwatching opportunities seem to be somewhat less well known. If you enjoy birding, here are a few places you might consider visiting.

Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area, a new Division of Wildlife property located 8 miles south and 1.5 miles east of Saguache, has the most extensive bullrush marsh area in Colorado. Numerous shallow alkaline lakes dot the area. It is an outstanding nesting and breeding habitat for nongame birds and waterfowl. The Russell Lakes complex is listed by the Department of Interior on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. You can drive to the property entrance via Highway 285 from Saguache. Follow the signs and turn east on County Road R. During the summer Russell Lakes birdwatching is at its best. You can see many different birds in a short time as well as some unusual species. The marshes support 2 rare Colorado breeding birds - the White-faced Ibis and the Snowy Egret. Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, American Avocets, and Wilson's Phalaropes also breed there. Of course Mallards, Canada Geese, and dozens of other birds are present. In the fall you may see American White Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes migrating through the area. If you are planning to visit Russell Lakes SWA, note that public access is restricted from March 15 to July 30 to protect the breeding birds. But, even during the closed months, perimeter roads allow you to get within a few feet of some of the bullrush marshes and view virtually all of the birds present.

Another birdwatching area you may want to visit is the Uncompahgre Plateau near Montrose. A good part of the plateau is within the Uncompahgre National Forest. There are many access roads but 1 of the best is Highway 90 leading west from Montrose. A National Forest map, available from any U. S. Forest Service office, will be helpful in finding your way around since the Uncompahgre Plateau is a very large area, some 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. One of the most notable features of the plateau is that you can visit several different vegetation types in a short time. During the 30 minutes it takes to travel from Montrose to the top of the plateau you will ascend from 5800 to 9600 feet in elevation. The drive takes you across a riparian area along the Uncompahgre River, through semi-arid desert shrub, pinyon-juniper, Gambel's oak, aspen, and finally spruce-fir vegetation types. Birding opportunities are limited mainly by the amount of time you can spend. Many of the forest and woodland birds present in

southwestern Colorado can be found on the Uncompahgre Plateau. The breeding season usually lasts from late May through early July. I suggest you visit no earlier than June when the winter snows are gone and the gravel and dirt roads have dried out enough to be passable in 2-wheel drive vehicles.

If you would like to see Bald and Golden Eagles (and possibly other raptors), then you may want to visit the Curecanti National Recreation Area about 10 miles west of Gunnison on Highway 50. The area is comprised of 3 reservoirs on the Gunnison River, including Blue Mesa Reservoir, which is the largest man-made lake in Colorado. Each year a good number of Bald Eagles winter around Curecanti. The National Park Service conducts auto tours to see the eagles in January, where participants usually see 10 to 20 eagles in a day. To get tour times and dates you can contact the Park Service office (1-303-641-2337) located at Curecanti National Recreation Area.



SEASONAL REPORT--WINTER 1982-83

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Section I of this report follows the two previous winter season reports by listing those observations which are later than the extreme date for the species given by Lane and Holt (1975 Rev.). The purpose is to try to determine if significant variations occur from winter to winter in the numbers of late, lingering species. There are a number of problems in attempting to maintain such records. The principal one is what set of species is to be considered, since a fair number of normally migrating species remain in small numbers each winter. I have attempted to handle this problem by first noting those species given in the 1975 revision of Lane and Holt that are designated as occasional in winter. The winter season records submitted to H. Kingery, Regional Editor for American Birds are used as source material. Each of the designated species is then compared with the observed records. A few species, normally considered as migratory, are consistently reported in fair numbers each winter. Examples are: Virginia Rail, Mountain Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, and Lesser Goldfinch (although the latter species may be frequently mis-identified in winter). These species are, then, not considered in the season to season comparisons. Two species so reported, however, were retained: Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and Brown Thrasher. My reasons for retaining these is that they are easily identified and can serve as interesting reference species for making comparisons from winter to winter. It should be noted that some species in the Lane and Holt list were either not reported at the last three winters (Peregrine Falcon and Burrowing Owl) or only reported once (Turkey Vulture, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, and Mockingbird). Another major problem is the undoubted difference in winter status of some species between the western and eastern slopes. Species seemingly reported much more often on the western slopes are Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Say's Phoebe, Water Pipit, and Rock Wren. The extreme dates in Lane and Holt are also meant to apply to the eastern slopes. Nevertheless, it is of interest to see what has been reported the last three winters. In 1980-81, 37 species made the list: 1981-82, 34, and below for 1982-83 there were 34. Of the species reported, each of the three winters had eleven unique to that winter. Thirteen species were reported in all three winters. This consistency seems to imply that year-to-year variations in late fall and early winter weather have little to do with migration or the tendency for numbers of stragglers to be observed. Part II, as usual, lists unusual or notable records.

The consensus of the various reporters was that Pine Siskin was in good numbers; Red-Breasted Nuthatch was still up; but Evening Grosbeak and Bohemian Waxwing were considerably down in numbers.

If your observation is not included here, please inform me and in the future insure that your local reporter transmits the information to H. Kingery.

Part I. The symbol @ means 'occasional winter', CC is Christmas Count, and an asterisk (*) indicates the report is under consideration by the CFO Records Committee.

SPECIES AND NUMBER	LOCATION(S)	DATES(S)	EXTREME DATE	OBSERVER
@EARED GREBE	2 Big Johnson Res.	12/16	12/14	RB
@Western Grebe	4+ Boulder-Denver	Dec-Jan		MOB
Double-Cr Cormorant	Chatfield	12/18	12/1	
	4 Pueblo Res. CC	12/18		
@Black-Cr Night Heron	S. Platte	12/13	11/11	FJJ
	Hotchkiss CC	1/1		
	Grand Junc CC	1/2		
	2 Longmont	1/1-3		DE
	Pueblo	1/16		
Tundra Swan	Berthoud	1/22-2/27	1/22	FAC
Blue-Winged Teal	2 Denver?	1/15	12/14	DFO
	2 Valmont Res	1/16		BJ
Sora	Colo Spgs CC	12/18	10/7	
Greater Yellowlegs	Wheatridge	1/1-2/23	11/14	DFO, JR
Spotted Sandpiper	Grand Junc CC	1/2	10/25	
Sandpiper Spp.	Barr Lake CC	12/31		?
Bonaparts Gull	Cherry Cr Res.	12/5	12/4	JR, RB
@Yellow-Bd Sapsucker	4 Statewide	Dec-Jan	11/9	
Says Phoebe	2 Grand Junc CC	1/2	10/27	
	Lake Isabel CC	1/2		
	Pueblo	1/5		JL
	Florence	1/9		RW
House Wren	Fort Collins CC	1/1	10/31	
@Rock Wren	Colo Spgs CC	12/18	11/13	
	Boulder CC	12/19		
	Nunn CC	12/21		
	2 Hotchkiss CC	1/1		
	2 Grand Junc CC	1/2		
	Pueblo	1/16		?
Grey Catbird	Boulder	1/22	11/1	AB, JH, BK
@Brown Thrasher	3 Statewide	Dec-Jan	10/6	
@Sage Thrasher	Pueblo Res CC	12/18	10/31	
	Fremont Co	1/30		RB
@Water Pipit	4 Statewide	Dec-Jan		
*Northern Parula	Hygiene	1/1		VDI
*Blue-Wngd Warbler	Colo Spngs	11/8-12	No Fall Rclds	RB
Hooded Warbler	Denver	11/16-24	No Fall Rclds	JJC+
@Yellow-Hd Blackbird	2 Weld Co	1/22	10/24	DJW
Northern Oriole	Denver CC	12/18	9/22	
Comm Grackle	4 Statewide	Dec-Jan	11/4	
Brown-Hd Cowbird	Weldona CC	12/19		
	Barr Lake CC	12/31		
	Pueblo	12/31		BM, JW
	Pueblo	1/16		RB
Western Tanager	Monument	12/30	10/20	WJ
Black-Hd Grosbeak	Cascade	12/6	10/17	HBR
Rose-Br Grosbeak	Boulder	1/15	11/7	VZS
@Green Towhee	Colo Spgs CC	12/18	12/4	
	Hotchkiss CC	1/1		
	Grand Junc CC	1/2		
	Durango	1/27		EF
Vesper Sparrow	Fort Collins CC	1/1	11/9	
@Lincolns Sparrow	Pueblo Res CC	12/18	10/30	
	Colo Spgs CC	12/18		
Clay-Colored Sparrow	Evergreen CC	12/19	10/26	
Field Sparrow	Boulder	11/18-12/21	10/28	BJ, MH
	Lyons	11/6		PB

Part II

SPECIES AND NUMBER	LOCATION(S)	DATES(S)	OBSERVER
*Yellow-Bd Loon	Chatfield	12/20	MOB
*Parasitic Jaeger	Longmont	12/5-6	BH,BM,RB
*Gr Black-Back Gull	Chatfield,CC Res	12/6	MOB
Black-Lg Kittiwake	CC Res	12/5	PE,RB,DFO
Snowy Owl	Berthoud	1/3	MHA
E. Bluebird	Fremont Co	?	RB
*Black-Thr Green Warbler	Glenwood Spgs	11/3	MS
Purple Finch	Lyons	1/2	HL
*Brown Towhee	Loveland	12/22	FAC
Golden-Crn Sparrow	Summit Co CC	12/30	
White-Thr Sparrow 2	Delta	2/6	MJ
Sage Sparrow	Grand Junc	?	RL

Observers.

Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Foothills Audubon Club (FAC), Many Observers (MOB), Audrey Benedict (AB), Phyllis Baker (PB), Richard Bunn (RB), Joyce, John Cooper (JJC), Virginia Dionigi (VDI), Patty Echelmeyer (PE), Dick Esposito (DE), Elva Fox (EF), Barbara Hyde (BH), Marcie Hartwig (MHA), Mark Holmgren (MH), Jim Holitza (JH), Mark Janos (MJ), Bob Jickling (BJ), Frank, Jan Justice (FJJ), Bill Kaempfer (BK), Ron Lambeth (RL), Helen Leichter (HL), Jerry Ligon (JL), Bill Maynard (BM), Helen, Bob Randal (HBR), Jack Reddall (JR), Mary Stewart (MS), D.J. Ward (DJW), J Watts (JW), Rosie Watts (RW), Van Zandts (VZS).

RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION CLINIC AND FIELD TRIP

Colorado Field Ornithologists will sponsor a Raptor Identification Clinic Thursday night from 7-10 pm, 2 February 1984, at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

The Thursday night laboratory session will be led by Charles A Chase III, and will be followed by a field trip on Saturday, 4 February.

The field trip will leave the Museum at 8 am, travel from Rocky Mountain Arsenal to Jackson Reservoir in Morgan County, and return to the Museum by 4 pm.

Participants should bring lunch and a thermos; we normally expect to see 15 species of raptors and approximately 100 individuals.

To make reservations call Charlie Chase at 370-6353, cost is \$5.00. You must make reservations.

Out-of-town participants may also call Charlie for information on overnight accommodations.

RARE BIRD HOTLINE

Don't forget the Denver Field Ornithologist's (DFC) Rare Bird Alert Hotline Number 1-(303) 759-1060. The week of 12 December an Oldsquaw was reported at Cherry Creek Reservoir in Denver.

1984 CONVENTION

The 1984 Colorado Field Ornithologists Annual Convention will be held Memorial Day Weekeno, 25-27 May 1984, in Grand Junction, Colorado.

This is the first call for papers to be presented at the convention. Send abstract and manuscript to Charles A. Chase III, c/o Zoological Collections, The Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

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