

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1 & 2

SPRING AND SUMMER, 1985



C.F.O. JOURNAL (ISSN - 0362-9902) is published quarterly for \$8.00 per year by the Colorado Field Ornithologists, 3145 Westcliff Dr. W., Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Second Class Postage Paid at Colorado Springs, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 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: Ann Hodgson, 6060 Broadway, Denver. Send rare bird report 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 PAGE

In order to get caught up, we are doing a double issue this time. As always, material has been difficult to get. We continue to receive articles from a very small segment of C.F.O. membership.

Steve Bissell is leaving as editor after this issue in order to begin work on the Third Latilong revision. Ann Hodgson will continue and is asking for assistance from anyone, particularly with art work.

The response to "Technical" articles (ones with numbers greater than 10) has generally been poor. However, the general upgrading of the journal has been well received. We believe the more technical articles are necessary to that process, but will try for a good balance.

As always, we ask for suggestions and contributions.

The artwork for this issue is by Jackie Bruggers. Jackie has traveled with her husband, a wildlife biologist, to numerous places. An extended stay in Africa produced much of her work, including a series of wildlife stamps. Her work often combines realism with impressionistic backgrounds. She is currently working on custom-designed belt buckles and other media but her subjects remain birdlife in general.

Ann Hodgson
Steven J. Bissell

Cover Photo by Charles Chase, III

Cosmoparus regius



J.D. SOOMAALIYEED

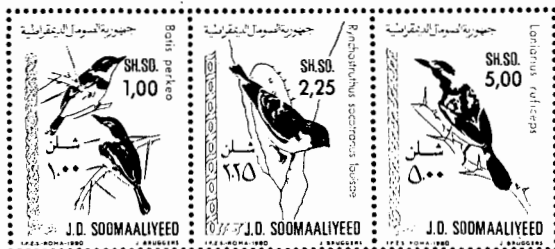
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Artwork by

Jackie Bruggers

IN HONOR OF DR. RONALD RYDER

Dr. Ronald A. Ryder will retire in June of this year from Colorado State University where he has been a professor in Wildlife Biology since 1958. During his tenure Dr. Ryder has been involved in nearly all aspects of wildlife biology including work with practically every governmental agency in the country. His students, both graduate and undergraduate, have gone on to fill biological positions at all levels.

Dr. Ryder's research interests have focused on water and non-game birds. The first course in the country in non-game management was taught by Dr. Ryder at C.S.U. While his studies have taken him all over the world (especially during a term in the Navy from 1951-1954), most of his work has been conducted in Colorado. Much of the current knowledge on colonial waterbirds such as herons and egrets as well as on grebes, coots (the bird of the future), and ibis is directly due to the work of Dr. Ryder and the legion of graduate students that he has had during the past 27 years.

As part of Dr. Ryder's interest in non-game species he has been actively involved with the Colorado Field Ornithologist's since its inception and has served as past president, records committee member and a member of the board of directors on several occasions. Many of the Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Counts and other inventory projects were initiated by Dr. Ryder. His publications number well over 100 and have been approved in journals and books all over the world. Dr. Ryder has served as editor and review for many professional journals. He has also been the recipient of many awards including most recently an award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Profession" from the Colorado Wildlife Society.

The Colorado Field Ornithologists would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Ronald Ryder for all of his efforts and especially for his work with non-game birds in the state of Colorado.

(Dr. Ryder was presented a print of "Quetzels" by Laura Hulbert at the C.F.O. annual meeting in Sterling).

Charles C. Chase, III.



CFO CONVENTION 1985

Ann Hodgson
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Approximately 30 people attended the 23rd Annual Convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists held during the weekend of June 8-9, 1985 on the campus of Northeastern Junior College, in Sterling, Colorado.

The meeting began with registration, a social hour, and an Executive Board meeting Friday night. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to facilitate educational opportunities for amateur ornithologists in the state.

Saturday morning the early riser crowd departed on field trips to Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Prewitt Reservoir, around Fleming, and along the South Platte River adjacent to Sterling. Notable observations included: Black-billed Cuckoo, Whiterumped Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink.

The paper session began after lunch and was moderated by Charlie Chase, outgoing President of CFO. Abstracts of the papers follow this summary; as always unfortunately, the slides accompanying the abstracts portrayed the information succinctly.

The conventioners moved from the technical session to a social hour and banquet in the student center. Charlie Chase conducted the business meeting of the membership and presented the candidates for the forthcoming year's Executive Board. No amendments to the nominations were added from the floor and the new Executive Board was inducted unanimously. The evening concluded with a slide talk on the owls of Colorado presented by John Rawinski. Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, who retires this year from CSU, was presented with a print "Quetzal" as a tribute to his guiding influence and longstanding participation in CFO.

Sunday morning conference attendees departed for a field trip to Red Lion S.W.A. and the Pawnee Grasslands and an extended trip through Monday to Crook, the Tamarack Ranch and Bonny Reservoir.

As a final note, a complete CFO membership list, including addresses and phone numbers, was last published in the Winter, 1983 edition (Volume 17, Number 4) upon the suggestion of the

members. The Editors hereby suggest that we publish an update of the membership directory in the Winter, 1986 journal (every three years ain't bad, folks) so...hurry! hurry! hurry! send any corrections to your listing to the Editors by October 31, 1985, and don't forget to renew your membership, too!

DISTRIBUTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF EAGLES IN COLORADO

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The majority of Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) (approximately 500) in Colorado occur during the winter along major rivers, reservoirs and in the San Luis Valley. There are currently four known nest sites of Bald Eagle in Colorado along the South Platte and in the vicinity of Steamboat Springs. Golden Eagles (Aquila chrysaetos) occur year-round though more are observed in winter when the young are wandering. They nest on rocky cliffs throughout the state and in lone cottonwoods on the plains.

Both species take 5 or more years to attain adult plumage. The Golden Eagle, with its proportionately shorter head and bill always has a golden nape. The Bald Eagle has a massive bill and head giving it a distinctive profile in all plumages. The patterns of white in the tail, wings and head are discussed as well as flight characteristics of these two species.

THE PINE SISKIN IN NORTHERN COLORADO: SOME RESULTS FROM CENSUSES AND BANDINGS

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Pine Siskin numbers in northern Colorado vary considerably based on both Christmas and Spring Bird Counts but no regular periodicity is apparent. Since 1950, I have banded over 6,400, mainly in my yard in Fort Collins but with a few hundred in the foothills and mountains to the west. In 1985, over 1,000 have been banded since mid-March. Most recoveries are local but several are from the mountains to the west and one was collected west of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, less than three months after banding in Fort Collins. Some theories regarding population regulation related to Pine Siskins will be discussed.

EFFECTS OF PREDATION ON A COLONIAL NESTING SPECIES

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Predation effects were studied at a California Gull (Larus californicus) breeding colony at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., Colorado.

Diurnal predators such as eagles, ravens and crows were aggressively repelled by the gulls; only other gulls constituted a threat to eggs and chicks and then only when the colony was disturbed by some other cause. Nocturnal predators, on the other hand, had a dramatic effect on the colony. Great Horned Owls occasionally entered the colony during incubation, would make a single kill, and eat the gull. During this time the remainder of the colony be in flight above the colony. Though this caused some egg chilling, little mortality resulted. Mortality was extremely high, however, during the chick stage. When the owl would make a kill, it would often, apparently, become super-stimulated and kill 15-30 chicks at a time. The effect of this mortality on colony distribution and movement is discussed.

MICROCOMPUTERS AND FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

David V. Blue
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Microcomputers can be an excellent tool for use in field ornithology. Three types of general programs that provide excellent assistance are data base programs, word processors, and electronic spreadsheets. In addition, specially designed programs are available commercially. A final option is to create one's own program.

One uses a database program to enter, select, sort, and print data. All types of field data can be manipulated using a database program. For example, one could record sighting records with information about species, date, location, sex, and number. Then reports could be generated such as:

- o all species seen at city park.
- o all sightings of Northern Orioles.
- o all sightings of male Northern Orioles at city park.
- o all sightings of male Northern Orioles at city park between April 15th and May 15th.

By entering additional data such as plumage, subspecies, and behavior, one can generate reports with even greater detail.

A word processor is basically an "electronic typewriter". It aids in document preparation by providing many useful features. Examples of such features include moving sections within a document, including text from another document, and rightjustifying text. Spelling checkers are also available. One can use a word processor to generate field notes, reports, and general forms such as check lists.

An electronic spreadsheet is like an accountant's spreadsheet. It consists of a giant table of rows and columns. One enters text, numbers, or formulas at selected row and column positions. An example of a formula is: divide the sum of one column of numbers by the sum of another. What appears at a position containing a formula is not the formula but the result of the formula. As one changes numbers in a spreadsheet, all formulas are automatically recalculated and their values displayed. A spreadsheet program permits numerical calculations to be done quickly and easily. One can use a spreadsheet to analyze field data or perform simulations. Many will create graphs of the data.

Besides these three general purpose programs, there are commercial ornithological programs that are advertised in many periodicals. While these may not be as flexible as the general purpose programs, they should be much easier to use.

Finally, for those so inclined, there is programming. Writing one's own programs allows total flexibility. Keep in mind though, that while programming is very rewarding, it can also be extremely time consuming and often frustrating.

As a final note, the Colorado Division of Wildlife is sponsoring a National Workshop on Microcomputer Applications in Fish and Wildlife Programs. It will take place in Ft. Collins on October 9-11, 1985. There is no fee for attending. For further information contact Don Schrupp, Habitat Resources Section, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216 (297-1192, ext. 275).

TAMARACK RANCH, RED LION, JUMBO RESERVOIR
AREA SITE GUIDEBill Prather
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Northeast Colorado has some excellent areas in which to find birds that are rare in other parts of the state.

Tamarack ranch is a state-owned area of grasslands and riparian woodlands along the South Platte River. It is reached by taking Exit 149 off interstate 76 and traveling north towards Crook. You will come to the Crook check station, on the right within a mile of the interstate. The Crook check station will probably be manned by a ranger only during hunting season when you will need to check in and be assigned a specific parking area in order to birdwatch on the ranch. If a ranger is at the check station you can get a birdlist and probably some information on birds. You can camp here and there is a toilet available. The grasslands right around the check station are good for grasshopper sparrows and other grassland nesting species in the summer and a great variety of sparrows in migration.

The gravel road goes 7 miles east where it joins the Red Lion Road. At times there will be a sign at the beginning of this road that says the area is closed - this means you can still drive through, stop, and look at birds but you can't go into the areas down by the river. In the winter driving this road in the very early morning is a good way to see Sharp-tailed Grouse, which migrate down from Nebraska, and Greater Prairie Chicken, which the Colorado Division of Wildlife is trying to establish here. Watch for them feeding on the russian olives in the hedgerows. About 2 miles down this road there is a sign directing you to areas 3-11. Turn left and go down the dirt road to get to the woodland area along the river. Be careful during snowy or wet weather as this road can be treacherous. This is the area where the Wild Turkey, which has been introduced, is most often seen or, more frequently, heard. There is food and shelter here and birds are plentiful all year round.

This is a good area for ticks, also. In May, 1984 a party of birders, astonished by the numbers of ticks, played a game to see who could accumulate the most ticks before this person could no longer resist stopping and removing them. Due to the high

numbers, the rules were gradually changed to include just those ticks below the waist and finally to those on just one leg. The record was more than 50 ticks on one leg! Birding here gives a whole new meaning to the word "ticker".

There is a sign after area 11 that the rest of the road is closed so you must return to the main road the way you came. From there you can continue east, checking the hedgerows, all the way to the Red Lion Road if you desire. There are more parking areas after you go by the ranch house and there is a small pond that can be good for shorebirds in migration. Remember, if it is hunting season you must check into one of the parking areas although you can then walk anywhere you want.

This is great birding area, but to visit the area that really enchants birders return to the paved highway by the check station and turn north toward the river. As you go down the hill check the fields on both sides. This is a good area, in summer, for Bobolinks and Dickcissels. Immediately after crossing the first bridge, turn left on the dirt road and park. If it is a wet spring the road may be underwater after mid-May. Use great caution in crossing any puddles or streams with your car as the ground is quite sandy and cars get stuck easily. From here it is fun to walk down the road and view the birds. The first mile is full of Bell's Vireos. You will undoubtedly hear them asking and then answering their buzzy questions. Just stand quietly and wait for one to jump up out of the brush into view. In spring migration this is an excellent area for eastern warblers. Orchard orioles are abundant also, and look for Northern Orioles - both Bullocks's and Baltimore - and most will show some field marks of both. Watch and listen for both species of Cuckoos, both Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red Shafted and Yellow-Shafted Flickers, and Bobwhites. After a couple of miles the road leaves the wooded area and enters grasslands and a little way farther there are some small ponds that can be good for Green-backed Heron. The road can be followed all the way to the Proctor road but it keeps getting rougher and the best birding is in these first 2 or 3 miles. Check the bridge area on the paved road for Eastern Phoebes. Look and listen for Dickcissels in the fields north of the river.

Drive to Crook and turn right on US 138. After you leave Crook start watching the fence posts and roadside for Upland Sandpipers. After about 7 miles you will see the Red Lion Exit road from I-76 on your right and then see the Red Lion Ranch.

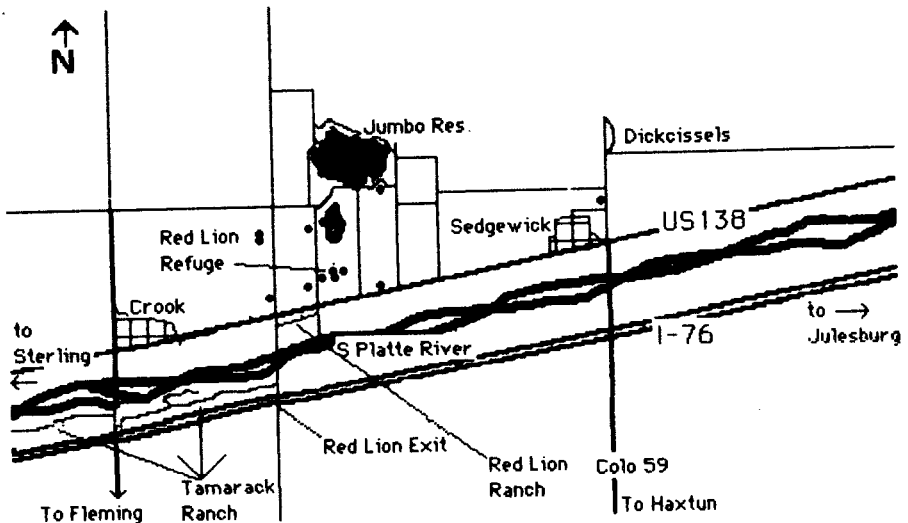
Cross the railroad track and proceed northeast on the frontage road until it starts to curve back to cross the railroad track. There is a gate here that says "no overnight parking" and "please close gate". You can enter the gate and walk down the lane. This area is good for Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink, and where there is some water standing in the field in spring, for many other shorebirds and water birds as well.

Cross the railroad and US 138. On your right you will come to a parking area and sign for the Red Lion Refuge. The Refuge is closed during the breeding season, March 15 to July 15 and you can only look from the road during those times. If the ponds next to the road have water in them you can usually see many shore and water birds in spring migration. This is a good area to see White-Rumped Sandpipers in early June. The ponds gradually dry up in the summer and after July 15 you can park and walk in to the ponds further from the road which hold water longer. Look for all the common shorebirds and rarities like Short-billed Dowitcher, Piping Plover, and Hudsonian Godwit which have been seen several times. Be warned that there are ticks here all summer and this is the best place in Colorado I know to find chiggers. If you do get chiggers, I found the best relief for me is to cover the itchy places with nail polish which seems to kill them.

Continue north on the gravel road. When you reach the top of the hills you can scan the lake, "Little Jumbo", and there is another pond on the left. The pond is good in late summer for shorebirds and herons including Yellow-crowned Night Heron. There is another parking area on the left where you can scan the lake and the marsh. Continue north and make a right turn at the intersection. Here you can see Jumbo Reservoir. The woodland at this end of the reservoir is good for migrants and Barn Owls have been seen here. In spring the water is usually clear up under the trees and there are no good places for shorebirds. But after mid-July you can usually see shorebirds anywhere on the shoreline where the water has receded. Also stop along the road and scan the lake, the point between the dams by the house is a good place. You can usually stop on the dams for short periods and scan from your car without getting in trouble. This is a good way to get close looks at gulls and loons and is exactly how the Ross's Gull was found here in 1983. In migration thousands of Snow and Canada Geese pass through here and among them are White Fronted, Ross's, and Brant. The birding possibilities of Jumbo are almost limitless as you can look in the marshes for rails

and wrens, in the fields for sparrows, in the trees for passerines, as well as water and shore birds. As long as there is open water in the winter there will be a good variety of water birds but all the water can freeze over early in December. In winter you can also look for Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, and Redpolls. Be careful after a snowstorm as the roads get drifted badly. You can drive all the way around the lake although the northwest side is private property. You may camp anywhere on public land around Jumbo.

If you still haven't seen a Dickcissel they can be found from June to August in an area north of Sedgwick. Drive US 138 to Colorado 59 past Sedgwick and turn left, away from the interstate. Drive north a couple of miles, past the Cemetery, until the road forks into 3 others. Turn left and watch and listen for the Dickcissels in the alfalfa fields north of the road.



FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF CLAY-COLORED
CHIPPING, & BREWER'S
SPARROWS IN FALLRichard L. Bunn
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Identification of these three species of Spizella sparrows in fall can be a field ornithologist's nightmare. But before you chunk your binoculars into the bushes remember that the identification of most mystery birds is relatively simple, provided that you know what to look for.

In Colorado, Clay-colored, Chipping, and Brewer's Sparrows are fairly common to abundant fall migrants (Chase, et al. 1982) late August through late October. The Chipping is usually the most frequently encountered species and the most abundant, and its departure from Colorado averages somewhat later. Only the Chipping and Clay-colored have been documented in Colorado in winter by specimen or photograph (Bailey, et al. 1965, Chase, pers. com.). Spizella sparrows group in single and mixed species flocks commonly numbering 30 to 40 individuals. Watch for these long-tailed sparrows foraging on the ground, often near shrubby cover in Plains Cottonwood riparian, grasslands, shrub, and Pinyon-juniper associations.

Overall, the fall or basic plumage of the Brewer's and Clay-colored Sparrows is similar to spring or alternate plumage, but is less distinctly marked (Simon 1977). In fall, the Chipping Sparrow is the least similar to its more familiar spring form. Each species acquires adult basic plumage as the result of a complete prebasic molt in later summer, and first basic plumage is acquired by a partial prebasic molt of the body feathers (Oberholser 1974). The juveniles of each of these species have streaked breasts, but during fall migration until early October only the Chipping Sparrow is likely to be seen in juvenile plumage (Robertson 1980).

The Clay-colored is the brightest and most contrasting of the three species, with a sharply defined pattern on the side of the head. The crown is brown with black streaks and, as in the Chipping, there is a distinct whitish median crown-stripe. The ear coverts are pale brown and darkly outlined above and below, producing a crisp pattern. The whitish supercilium increases

the color contrast on the side of the head. The blackish eyeline does not extend through the eye onto the lore. The dorsal streaks, usually broader than those of the Brewer's Sparrow, end abruptly on the back and do not continue onto the brown rump. The best identification mark of the Clay-colored is the bright gray collar-like marking on the side of the neck contrasting with the buffy upper breast.

The bright high-contrast plumage of the Clay-colored is absent in the Chipping Sparrow. Overall, the Chipping is darker gray ventrally and with darker browns dorsally. The crown is brown with black streaks and there is usually a conspicuous whitish median crown-stripe, although somewhat duller than in the Clay-colored. There may be some rusty color in the crown. Fall collected specimens that I examined at the Denver Museum of Natural History had crown feathers that were brown tipped with a single narrow black center streak, and were rusty toward the base. The rusty color was absent in specimens of the other two species. The ear coverts are brown and darkly edged above, but are overall less contrasting than in the Clay-colored. The whitish supercilium is also somewhat duller, producing little contrast with the side of the head. The blackish eyeline extends through the eye onto the lore. The side of the neck is often gray but dull and not contrasting with the side or the gray upper breast. The Chipping has a gray rump, but the back-rump contrast is not evident in all early first fall birds.

The Brewer's Sparrow is overall a paler sandybrown color dorsally and whitish ventrally, lacking the dull grays and dark browns of the Chipping Sparrow and the bright buffs and crisp, contrasting patterns of the Clay-colored. The brown crown is finely streaked with black. The narrow streaking continues from the crown onto the brown rump. The whitish median crown-stripe and supercilium, and the neck gray, are absent. The pale ear coverts are distinctly outlined, but are usually inconspicuous and producing little contrast. The Brewer's also has a thin yet conspicuous white eye-ring.

In general, crown streaking in the Brewer's is finer than in the Clay-colored and was once thought to be a good species character. However, the crown streaking of the timberline brewer's sparrow, *S. breweri taverneri*, can be broader (Phillips 1983). Although the summer and winter ranges of this subspecies are northwest and south of Colorado (Oberholser 1974) it is unrecorded in the state. The Clay-colored can also have dorsal

streaking as fine as that found on the average Brewer's. A finely streaked *Spizella* collected in northeast Texas (TNHC #1597, G.H. Ragsdale) cataloged and later verified by Oberholser as a Brewer's Sparrow, stood as the only record from that region for nearly a century (Phillips 1983). Reclassification of the specimen as a Clay-colored Sparrow was not forthcoming until the utility of the neck-breast color contrast was found to be a reliable character to identify the Clay-colored.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank Betsy Webb and Charles Chase III, curators at the Denver Museum of Natural History, for use of *Spizella* specimens in the ornithological collection. Also thanks to Charles Chase III, Bill Maynard, Steven Bissell, and David Blue for their useful comments.

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SEASONAL REPORT: FALL 1984
August 1 through November 30

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This report summarizes rare and unusual species, extreme dates, unusual numbers and otherwise noteworthy observations for the period 1 August through 30 November, 1984. This report attempts not to draw conclusions about observational trends unless the trends are obvious or the trends are noted by observers. The latter point is very important because the observers in the field have a better feel for the norms than a compiler looking at pages of numbers several months after the field season.

In analyzing the raw data which is summarized in this report, it seems that the Fall of 1984 generally lacked reports of rarities and large numbers or concentrations of our more common species. This is particularly true with shorebirds and warblers, two fall favorites. Even though all of the typical shorebird species were reported, the numbers seem small and there were no reports of large concentrations. Perhaps due to the lack of good shoreline, the waders moved through (or over) the state quickly. The warbler migration also lacked the flocks of large numbers and subsequently few rarities were reported. Perhaps the lack of food supply in our higher mountains forced the typical montane seed eaters to lower elevations where many of them spread out onto the plains.

Loons through Ibis:

Scattered reports of Common Loons from all over the state between October 20 to the end of November with a peak around the first week of November. Corresponding to the peak were reports of a winter plumaged Red-throated Loon (*) at Latham Reservoir November 4 (JC) and four Arctic Loons along the Front Range November 2-11.

One early Horned Grebe was reported on August 18 near Grand Junction. There were no reports of "light phase" Western Grebes, though they breed in Colorado. Documentation of this possibly new subspecies is important. Very few American White Pelicans were reported except in DFO but 3 late birds were reported at Empire Reservoir November 10 and 11. An American Bittern was noted

at Russel Lakes in the San Luis Valley November 23 (JS). No Least Bittern reports! FAC reported early Great Egrets at Union Reservoir August 12; they breed 15 miles to the south. Up to nine, an increase over past years, were noted by several observers, with several other scattered reports on the eastern plains August 17 through October 7. Cattle Egret numbers appeared normal with two late observations, November 8 at Union Res. (LRH), and November 17 near Grand Junction. (MJ). MJ reports Cattle Egrets as regular fall migrants on the west slope now. Late August brought a post-breeding dispersal of Green-backed Herons in the north-east part of the state, 7, including 4 immatures at Boulder, may indicate local breeding. A Little Blue Heron (*) at Sweitzer Lake near Delta was both late (November 1) and a latilong record (MJ); also, one seen at Lake Henry September 17 (RB) was the only east slope report. Eight immature Black-crowned Night Herons at Escalante W.A. August 29 may indicate local breeding (MJ); one was late at Gaynor Lakes near Boulder November 23 (BK). BJK reported that one White-faced Ibis at Gaynor Lakes was the first fall report for Boulder County since 1980.

Waterfowl:

Reports from Durango (EF) and Longmont (FAC) showed generally lower numbers of ducks and geese, whereas at Monte Vista NWR there were reports of higher than normal numbers with 15,000, mostly Mallards. Southeast Colorado saw exceptional numbers of Snow Geese. Observers primarily reported the rarer geese and ducks, leaving the Division of Wildlife to survey and count our more common waterfowl species.

Several scattered reports occurred throughout the northern half of the state of Tundra Swans (October 24 through November 12). Two reports of Whitefronted Geese, 7 at Cherry Creek Reservoir November 1, and one at Hart's Basin on the west slope September 25, new latilong record (MJ). Snow Geese appeared in usual numbers during October and November (both slopes) except in the southeast corner of the state, where there were 15,000 at Nee Noshe and 17,000 at Adobe Creek reservoirs; besides being record numbers, they lingered through the winter. Many reports appeared of Ross' Geese, in flocks up to 20, from October 20 through November on both slopes. An immature "Black" Brant (*) was in the company of a small flock of Canada Geese at Boulder (Mohawk Lk. and Baseline Reservoir) November 1-3, the bird showed no bands or unusual feather wear, (m.ob.), another was reported at Cherry

Creek Reservoir November 28 (DFO). A female Ruddy Shelduck was found along the Colorado River near Grand Junction November 12-21; the owner of this exotic duck was reportedly found in April 1985. Continued reports were submitted of Wood Ducks on the west slope near Grand Junction (BT), also noteworthy were reports from Silverthorne (one Oct. 23, DFO) and Estes Park (six, JL). Three Surf Scoters reported included one on Lake Estes October 20 (JL). Six observations involving 13 individual White-winged Scoters were reported November 1-25, including 3 immatures near Sapinero, Gunnison Co. (*) which was a latilong record. / Two female Oldsquaw November 10-11 were reported at Bijou Reservoir (DJW) and 3 were reported November 1 at Loveland (FAC). Two reports of Barrow's Goldeneye November 17 and 25 on plains near Denver and Longmont. One male Hooded Merganser at Antero Reservoir August 30 was early (DJW, LRH).

Raptors:

Turkey Vultures began moving by late August with a peak around the third week of September (FH); the latest report was October 31 in the Boulder area. Twelve individual Osprey were reported at various locations September 1 to November 17, (Nov. 17 is a late date for the species, Grand Jct.) PL reports Mississippi Kites were last seen in Lamar October 5, one at Pueblo August 23 was somewhat out of range (DHW, LRH). The first Bald Eagles returned October 4 (FAC), most reports in the northern part of the state reported good numbers throughout the rest of the season. On the IPFC there was a 100% (.15 No./p.hr) increase in the number of accipiters seen per party hour (compared to 1983 IPFC, .07 No./p.hr); encouraging, except that this is still only half the number seen in 1982 (.27 No./p.hr). Three Broad-winged Hawks were seen October 6-7 moving south just west of Niwot (LRH). Reports that included numbers from previous years showed a general increase in the numbers of Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks. The first Rough-legged Hawk report was October 6 near Boulder (LRH), SJ reports a steady 5 year decline of Roughleggeds on his study plots and transects north of Boulder. JW reported witnessing a Peregrine Falcon capture and eat a Lesser Yellowlegs at Barr Reservoir August 17, 7 other individuals reported August 17 through November 25, all along the Front Range. BT reports lower numbers of Am. Kestrels in the Grand Junction area, elsewhere little or no comment. One August 28 at 12,000' near Eagle is interesting.

Galliformes through Cranes:

The consensus is that there has been a drastic decline in the Ring-necked Pheasant population on the eastern plains. A Denver Post article by Charlie Meyers suggested that the cause is a pesticide used by farmers. The FAC reports a drastic increase (73 to 27 in fall 1983), possibly the Longmont/Loveland area was spared the use of this pesticide. JL commented about low numbers of Blue Grouse in the Estes Park area. Several reports of isolated flocks of Wild Turkey along the front range and near Grand Junction. FAC reports show a general increase in the number of Rails (Virginia, Sora), and Am. Coot, observed this fall. Scattered flocks of Sandhill Cranes were reported throughout the state. At Monte Vista NWR 29 of the possible 37 Whooping Cranes (JK) moved through with the earliest report October 14 (DJ); with 3 Whoopers and 60 Sandhills in the San Luis Valley until November 26.

Shorebirds through Gulls and Terns:

MJ reported a "Bonanza" of Lesser Golden Plovers on the west slope, six birds at Hart's Basin September 22 through November 8 and one October 30 through November 8 at Sweitzer Lake, the latter a latilong record. Several other scattered eastern plains reports around the last week of September, of note was one at Monte Vista NWR (JK) October 21. Several reports through August of the group of Snowy Plovers which breed at Antero Reservoir. Two Upland Sandpipers in an alfalfa field in Weld County were late (DW, LRH). WWB reported 8 Whimbrels at Barr Reservoir August 30 for an unusual fall report. One Dunlin October 18-20 at Hart's Basin on the west slope was noteworthy (and the only report) (MJ). One Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*) at Jackson Reservoir October 7 was very late (DJW) from their usual welltimed migration. At Hart's Basin MJ observed a single Short-billed Dowitcher (*) September 16-19, both a latilong record and rare. One Sanderling September 16-22 at Hart's Basin the west slope was unusual (MJ).

One Parasitic Jaeger (*) was photographed at Barr Reservoir September 2 (WL, DW). FAC reported a large increase in the observations of Franklin's Gulls (up 180%) and Ring-billed Gulls (up about 2000%) over previous fall records, observers elsewhere reported large flocks of Franklin's, particularly along the front range. Twenty-five Bonaparte's Gulls visited Eagle September 30 (JM) (a latilong record) and up to 40 lingered at Union Reservoir August 20 through November 17 (LHR). One second year Thayer's

Gull (*) at Empire Reservoir (DJW) was the earliest reported (November 10). At Union Reservoir, one first winter Glaucous Gull was seen October 30 through November 10 (LRH), two adults were at Empire Reservoir November 10 (DJW). One Black-legged Kittiwake (*) was reported at Barr Reservoir September 2 (LRH) for an early record. There was a large push of Sabine's Gulls to the eastern plains September 10 through October 6. A total of 14 were reported in all plumages. MJ reports 4 Common Terns on the west slope at Sweitzer Lake September 23. JRW described one Caspian Tern (*) at CF&I Reservoir near Pueblo September 16.

Pigeons through Owls through Woodpeckers:

RSS reported that Band-tailed Pigeons left nearly a month early, they saw their last October 14 in the Bear Mountain area. HUK reports a Monk Parakeet at their feeder in Denver from August 15 onwards. The only three reports received of Pygmy Owls involved injured or dead birds (2 near Estes Park and 1 near Lyons). A Burrowing Owl at Lamar September 29 through October 5 used a tree for shelter (PL). JRW reports that Boreal Owls readily responded to calling near Monte Vista throughout September and October; he also photographed three of them.

A Common Nighthawk October 26 in Denver was late (HUK). A Common Poorwill November 4 near Lyons was very late (FAC). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Durango was late October 1 (EF). RW reported that Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at Westcreek remained the latest ever, September 18-20. Jerry Ligon reported Broad-taileds stopped whistling after September 3 in the Estes Park area, the latest was seen September 24 (JL). LH reported one Broad-tailed as late as October 6. RW reported that the peak of Rufous Hummingbird migration at Westcreek occurred the first week of August. As for large Hummingbirds, one Magnificent Hummingbird (*) was reported at Aspen at least through August 2 (MJ). Departure dates for Williamson's Sapsucker west of Boulder and Colorado Springs were September 25 and 26 respectively (fide MF,RW).

Flycatchers through Swallows:

A pair of Hammond's Flycatchers, near Estes Park, were still feeding young September 3 (JL). A Western Flycatcher at Estes Park September 20 was late for the elevation (JL). A Cassin's Kingbird at Prospect Reservoir was north of the usual range in Colorado, August 4 (JW,LRH). The immature Scissor-tailed Fly

catcher July 29 near Grand Mesa was a very unusual west slope record (CR). One female and one immature Purple Martin were seen near McClure Pass August 2 (MJ). MCE suggest that cool rainy weather near Eagle in August may have encouraged swallows to leave the area early as none were seen after mid-August. GC of Durango reports seeing hundreds of swallows and swifts between 7:30 and 7:45 on September 11 flying south. Other swallow reports included 5 young Barn Swallows still returning to the nest September 6 (JL), one was noted near Grand Junction as late as October 27 (BT).

Corvids through Gnatcatchers:

FAC reported about 470 Pinyon Jays, an exceptional count for the northern front range. Clark's Nutcrackers were absent in the high mountains and were reported from the lower foothills where availability of food was higher. RB reported up to 75 Clark's Nutcrackers caching the "bumper" crop of pinyon seeds in the Garden of the Gods. Similarly, Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported at lower elevations due to poor food supply in the high mountains and excellent crop in the foothills. One Redbreasted Nuthatch was found as far east as Lamar on November 14 (PL). A very early Winter Wren was reported near Fort Morgan September 1. A late Bluegray Gnatcatcher was feeding with a flock of Pine Siskins November 16 near Grand Junction (BT).

Bluebirds through Shrikes:

The most western report of Eastern Bluebird was near Longmont September 6 (FAC); 5 were also seen near Fort Morgan October 25 (JR). The last Mountain Bluebird report was November 5 near Boulder (fide MF). RB reports the Townsend's Solitaires are down in numbers around the Colorado Springs area, perhaps due to the very poor juniper berry crop, FAC reports that their numbers increased at lower elevations, possibly due to the lack of food supply in the high mountains. A late Swainson's Thrush was reported November 5, Loveland/Longmont area (FAC). One No. Mockingbird at Moraine Park, RMNP November 19 was out of place and was late (fide JL). A Sage Thrasher was found at 11,000' near Eagle feeding at the base of a spruce tree (JM). WWB reported a Brown Thrasher in Evergreen October 16. JL reported that a snow storm forced 300-400 Water Pipits down from their alpine habitat to the mountain parks near Estes Park September 8. The first Bohemian Waxwings arrived November 20 in the foothills west of Boulder (fide MF), since then they were reported as common. BK

reported an outstanding shrike movement through Boulder Co. with 11 being seen (7 Northern and 4 Loggerheads); in previous years BK received only one report per fall.

Vireos and Warblers:

One Bell's Vireo reported September 11 in Lamar was somewhat late (PL). Two reports of Philadelphia Vireos (*); September 1, Crow Valley C.G., Pawnee N.G. (DJW), and September 8, Bear Cr. St. Pk. (WWB). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers southwest of Loveland were late October 5 (FAC). One male Black-throated Blue Warbler September 30 was unusual for the mountains (at Moraine Park, RMNP) (JL). Yellow-rumped Warblers were late at Wray November 12 (CH). WWB reported a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Bear Cr. St. Pk. September 30. A new latilong record in extreme northwest Moffat Co. was three Townsend' Warblers seen August 11-12 (DJW). A Grace's Warbler at Golden Gate St. Pk. was north of the usual range September 22 (PC). A Palm Warbler in Colorado Springs September 27 was unusual (EW). A group of 20 American Redstarts was seen on the Pawnee N.G. September 6 (FAC). Other species reported: Tennessee, No. Waterthrush, and Ovenbird.

Tanagers through Sparrow:

A flock of 50+ Western Tanagers was observed moving south with an early cold front August 23 near Longmont (FAC). A late Blue Grosbeak was found dead September 25 near Berthoud (FAC). A Green-tailed Towhee lingered longer than usual west of Boulder October 10 (fide MF). RB reported low numbers of Rufous-sided Towhees in the Colorado Springs area possibly due to the lack of an acorn crop. One flock of 300 Chipping Sparrows was observed on the IPFC September 22 (BK). Three "eastern" Field Sparrows were seen at Barr Reservoir September 24 (JW) and five "western" Field Sparrows were observed at Bonny Reservoir October 13 (DHW,LRH,CAC). MJ reported that Sage Sparrows were more common and lingered longer than in previous fall seasons (October 3 through November 3) near Sweitzer Lake. One Baird's Sparrow (*) September 27 in Colorado Springs was an unusual report (fide RB). For the second consecutive fall a White-throated Sparrow visited an Estes Park feeder November 9 (JL), another was seen in the Grand Junction area (BT). One immature Harris' Sparrow near Eagle November 30 was unusual for the west slope, and one at Roxborough St. Pk. was equally unusual for the mountains (HUK).

Blackbirds through Finches:

A late Common Grackle was reported November 23 (FAC). A young Brown-headed Cowbird was observed being fed by an adult G. Catbird August 26 near Durango (EF). Rosy Finches arrived early this fall with a single "gray-crowned" west of Boulder September 22 (fide MF), 30 "gray-crowned" October 15 in Evergreen (WWB), and 2 "black" October 29 in Evergreen (WWB). Several observers reported that Pine Grosbeak numbers were up but the population had moved to lower elevations where the food supply was better. Similarly, Pine Siskins, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills moved into the foothills in great numbers and spread out onto the surrounding plains. Common Redpolls began to make a push into Colorado with the earliest being seen November 6 near Eldora, a flock of 28 was seen in Morgan Co. November 10 (DJW). As with the other mountain finches, Evening Grosbeaks spilled out onto the plains, with a latilong record for Lamar with 2 seen November 9 (PL).

NOTE: (*) marks species for which the CFO Records Committee desire documentation, if not already sent please do so.

Abbreviations: DFO: Denver Field Ornithologist "The Lark Bunting", FAC: Foothills Audubon Club, IPFC: Indian Peaks Fall Count, m.ob.: Many Observers, RMNP: Rocky Mountain National Park.

Noted Observers: Winston W. Brockner (WWB), Richard Bunn (RB), Jerry Cairo (JC), Pilk Carter (PC), Charles A. Chase (CAC), Gloria Childress (GC), Margret & Clark Ewing, (MCE), Mike Figgs (MF), Elva Fox (EF), Freeman Hall (FH), Laurens R. Halsey (LRH), Lillian Harlow (LH), Carol Hargreaves (CH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Steve Jones (SJ), Bill Kaempfer (BK), Jon Kauffeld (JK), Hugh & Urling Kingery (HUK), Wade Lietner (WL), Jerry Ligon (JL), Peggy Locke (PL), John Merchant (JM), Elinor Mills (EM), John Rawinski (JR), Claudia Rector (CR), Joe Rigli (JR), Janet Schruer (JS), Robert & Sis Stull (RSS), Bert Tignor (BT), Doug & Judy Ward (DJW), Jim and Rosie Watts (JRW), Roberta Winn (RW).

SECOND RECORD OF BLACK PHOEBE
IN WESTERN COLORADOMark Janos
860 Sharpe Circle
Delta, Colorado 81416

On the morning of 20 May 1985 Dick Guadagno found a Black Phoebe (Sayornis nigricans) at the pond behind his house at Ridgeway, in western Colorado. He called me that day and I arrived about 7:10 p.m. After a short search we located the bird and I was able to observe it for over an hour until the light failed.

The 6" long bird was an adult in breeding plumage. Except for white undertail coverts and belly it was wholly sooty black (not the glossy black of a blackbird or grackle). The white of the belly met the black breast in a clean line in the shape of an inverted "V". The wing coverts were slightly paler-edged but did not give the impression of clear "wingbars". The eyes, bill, legs and feet were black. The bird acted "nervous" and seldom perched for long in one spot. It usually chose perches from among several half-submerged fence posts in the small pond and fed by making short, low flights for insects. When perched it habitually pumped its tail up and down. The foraging location of the pond is typical as its habitat is usually around water, especially streams (AOU 1983). A small stream flows along one edge of the pond where the bird was located.

It stayed around these fenceposts or in the willows and buffaloberry around the edges of the pond. This area probably represents suitable breeding habitat but only one bird was seen that day. The bird could not be located later that week and probably was a spring migrant.

There are only a handful of records of Black Phoebe from Colorado; all from the Pueblo and Durango latilongs (Chase et al 1982). The most celebrated occurrence is from along the Charles River southwest of Pueblo where a pair attempted to nest in 1972-1974 (Chase et al 1982; Holt 1979; American Birds 34: 916). A pair returned to that spot in 1978 (Holt 1979) and a single bird was seen along the Arkansas River near Pueblo 18 May 1979 (American Birds 33: 794). The only previous western slope Colorado record is of a single bird seen near Durango 16 May 1980 (American Birds 35: 848).

The Black Phoebe breeds from northwestern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, central Arizona, central New Mexico

and western and west-central Texas south to South America (AOU 1983). It has shown post-breeding wandering and has been recorded north to Vancouver, western Washington and Oregon and east to southeastern Texas as well as a sight record for Minnesota (AOU 1983). It is considered an uncommon permanent resident in southwestern Utah (Behle 1975) with records to Cedar City and Salt Lake City, Utah. Dick Guadagno found a pair of Black Phoebes in mid-July, 1984 along the San Juan River at Grand Gulch in southeastern Utah less than 100 miles from Colorado (pers. comm.). This species may be regular in small numbers in southwestern Colorado but the area is not regularly or well covered by birders. Perhaps we can look forward to more records for southwestern and western Colorado and can predict the discovery of breeding here in the future.

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The CFO Records
Committee Report For 1983

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This report contains a revised list of species for which the Committee desires documentation, records received by the Committee in 1983 plus two old records. The six members in 1984, who reviewed the records discussed below, are Richard Bunn (Colorado Springs), Mark Holmgren (Santa Barbara, Calif.), Mark Janos (Delta), Ron Lambeth (Grand Junction), Steve Larson (Boulder), and Richard Stransky (Durango). Copies of the CFO checklist mentioned below are available from Committee Members or CFO Officers and Directors.

The Committee desires documentation of all species unrecorded in the State and not on the CFO checklist as well as those rare species marked by an "R" on the CFO checklist. These are: Red-throated and Yellow-billed Loons, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Mottled Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow, Black and King Rails, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers, Little, Mew, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous-winged, Great Black-backed, Ross' and Ivory Gulls, Caspian and Arctic Terns, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, Grovebilled Ani, Barred Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Whip-poorwill, Blue-throated and Anna's Hummingbirds, Alder Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Phainopepla, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Lucy's, Hermit, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Cerulean and Swainson's Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, LeConte's, Sharp-tailed and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Brambling.

The Committee also desires documentation of any species that are (a) new breeders in the State, and not marked with a "B" on the CFO checklist, e.g., Barrow's Goldeneye or Spotted Owl, (b) significantly changing their breeding range in the State, e.g., Cattle Egret, Great-tailed Grackle or Scott's Oriole, or (c) very

unusual sightings of other species, e.g., out of season, range or habitat. All of this information should also be submitted to the Colorado Latilong Study.

Finally, the Committee desires photographs of those species documented in the State by means of sight records only. These are: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, American Swallow-tailed Kite (specimens missing), Common Black-Hawk, Common Moorhen, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee (specimen missing), Sprague's Pipit, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Bluewinged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hepatic Tanager and Eastern Meadowlark.

PART 1. Species added to the CFO State List

Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) 23-83-32.

One immature was observed between 4/28 and 5/7/83 on Jumbo Reservoir, Logan and Sedgwick Counties in northeast Colorado. The bird was found and identified by Inez and Bill Prather of Fleming. They and some of the many other observers who saw the bird, obtained excellent photographs. Detailed reports were received from Inez and Bill, Robert Andrews and Barry Knapp. There are only three previous sightings of this species in the lower forty-eight states: Newburyport, Massachusetts in the springs of 1975 and 1981, and at Chicago in fall of 1978.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) 56-83-59 and 60. Birds were observed between 10/30 and 11/4/83 in Colorado Springs, El Paso County and 12/17/83 and 3/15/84 in Boulder, Boulder County. They were at the feeders of Martha and Ed Curry and Marjorie and Robert Foland respectively (see Curry and Jickling, CFO Journal 18(1), 3-4, 1984). Reports were received from Martha and Ed, Marjorie, Robert Jickling and Barry Knapp. Excellent photographs of these birds were taken, which I sent to Dr. Daniel Gibson of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, who has studied this species extensively. I quote from his reply, "The four photographs you sent all appear to me to be females, but aging them is difficult. Judging from the shape of the black area on mantle feathers, I would guess that the Boulder bird is not in its first winter. I can make no such guess about the Colorado Springs bird."

PART 2. Category A records (Submitted documentation supports the stated identification).

Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata) 1-83-2.

One in winter plumage on Chatfield State Park Reservoir, Jefferson County on 11/18/82. (Mark Holmgren).

Yellow-billed Loon (Gavia adamsii) 1-83-1

One in winter plumage seen on the Denver Christmas count at Chatfield State Park Reservoir, Jefferson County on 12/18/82. This is the second state record. (Mark Holmgren).

Olivaceous Cormorant (Phalacrocorax olivaceous) 4-83-18.

One adult seen between the Red Lion Wildlife Area and Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County on 7/1/83. (Paul Lehman).

Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis) 5-83-21 and 22.

One adult seen and photographed near Riverbend Ponds, Fort Collins, Larimer County between 5/28 and 6/3/83. Excellent reports documented this bird as a possible new breeding location. (Dave Leatherman and Peter Paton).

Brant (Branta bernicla) 8-83-23.

One adult of the Black Brant subspecies seen on a small pond 16 miles east of Briggsdale, Weld County on 5/17/80. (Inez, Bill and John Prather).

Eurasian Wigeon (Aras penelope) 8-83-12.

One male in breeding plumage seen on CF&I Ponds and Minnequa Lake, Pueblo, Pueblo County between 4/10 and 4/13/83. (Bill Maynard, Rosie and Jim Watts).

American Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus) 10-83-25.

One adult female seen in Denver, Arapahoe County, between 4/7 and 4/30/85 and one adult (probably the same bird) seen at Waterton Canyon, Jefferson County on 5/24/83. This is the first report of this species in Colorado since 1947. (Patricia L. Beran, Ann K. Bonnell, Patricia R. Echelmeyer, Bobbye J. Frazier, Kenneth C. Gammon and Barbara R. Livingston).

Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) 17-83-26.

One adult seen at Sawhill Ponds, Boulder, Boulder County between 6/10 and 6/13/83. (Peter Gent, Larry Halsey and Doug Ward).

Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicaria) 21-83-29.

One seen at Red Lion Wildlife Area, Logan County on 8/24/83. (Larry Halsey).

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus) 22-83-6.

One immature seen at Union Reservoir near Longmont, Weld County on 12/5 and 12/6/82. (Peter Gent, Barbara Hyde, Judy and Doug Ward).

Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri) 23-83-8.

One in first winter plumage seen on the Denver Christmas count at Chatfield State Park, Jefferson County on 12/18/82. (Mark Holmgren).

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) 28-83-33.

One adult female was mist-netted and banded at Fraser Experimental Forest, Grand County between 9/22 and 9/23/83. (Tom Nicholls).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (Contopus virens) 34-83-35.

One adult seen and heard singing (by which it was identified) at Hanna Wildlife Area, El Paso County on 5/24/83. (William Maynard).

Yellow-throated Vireo (Vireo flavifrons) 51-80-6.

One at Crow Valley Park, near Briggsdale, Weld County on 7/3 and 7/6/79. (Courtney Buechert, CFO Journal 14(2), 27-28, 1980).

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus) 51-83-39 and 40.

One adult in breeding plumage was seen at Jumbo Reservoir, Sedgwick County on 5/23/83 and probably the same bird was reported in the same location on 5/31/83. (John Prather and Doug Ward).

Cape May Warbler (Dendroica tigrina) 52-83-44.

One male in breeding plumage was seen at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on 5/20/83. (Larry Halsey).

Cape May Warbler (Dendroica tigrina) 52-83-45.

One male in breeding plumage was seen and photographed at Tamarack Ranch, Logan County on 5/20/83 at almost the same time as the previous record. (Inez and Bill Prather).

Yellow-throated Warbler (Dendroica dominica) 52-83-48.

One adult was seen on the CSU Campus, Fort Collins, Larimer County

between 12/7 and 12/8/82. This is a very late date for this species. (Paul A. Opler).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporonis formosus) 52-80-19.

One male in breeding plumage seen on the CU Campus, Boulder, Boulder County on 5-16-79. (Michael Manson).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporonis formosus) 52-83-49.

One adult seen on the CU Campus, Boulder, Boulder County on 5/15/83. (Doug Ward).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporonis formosus) 52-83-50.

One adult female seen at Tamarack Ranch, Logan County on 5/18/83. (Bill Prather).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporonis formosus) 52-83-51.

One adult seen near Rye, Pueblo County on 8/28/83. (David A. Silverman).

Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris) 56-83-54.

One adult male banded and photographed at Horsetooth Reservoir, near Fort Collins, Larimer County on 5/15/83. (James A. Smith).

Brown Towhee (Pipilo fuscus) 56-83-10.

One seen in Loveland, Larimer County on 1/22/83. This is unusually far north in the state for this species. (David Bolton, Virginia Dionigi and Ann Means).

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus) 56-83-57.

One female seen at Fleming, Logan County on 11/7 and 11/11/82. (Inez, Bill and John Prather).

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus) 56-83-58.

Two, a female and male, seen in Colorado Springs, El Paso County on 3/19/83. (John A. Maynard).

PART 3. Category B and C Records. (Submitted documentation probably indicates a misidentification or is too brief or incomplete to support the stated identification).

Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata) 1-83-17.

One seen on Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on 11/24/83.

Most members thought this report was short and did not adequately eliminate the other loon species.

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus) 22-83-30.

One seen at Rawhide Power Plant, north of Fort Collins, Larimer County on 7/29/83. The members thought the description of a Jaeger species, but was not detailed enough to be more specific.

Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri) 23-83-7 and 31.

One seen on Baseline Reservoir, Boulder, Boulder County on 12/19/82 and one seen on Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on 11/19/83. Most members thought that these two reports were not quite specific enough to eliminate other species. This is difficult identification and all characteristics should be reported.

Bendire's Thrasher (Toxostoma bendirei) 43-83-38.

One seen fifteen miles south of Monte Vista, Conejos County on 5/8/83. The members split in this report, but half thought that Curve-billed Thrasher was not adequately eliminated.

Painted Redstart (Myioborus pictus) 52-83-46.

One seen west of Loveland, Larimer County on 5/4/82. Most members thought that this was probably a Rosebreasted Grosbeak.

Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris) 56-83-53.

One seen south of Lyons, Boulder County on 5/17/83. The members split on this report, but half thought the description too short and other species were not mentioned.

Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) 56-83-11.

Five seen near Jamestown, Boulder County on 2/16/83. Most members thought this report did not adequately eliminate American Tree Sparrow since some individuals lack the central breast spot.



THE THIRD LATILONG REVISION

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Time sure goes fast when you're having fun. It seems like only yesterday that we finished the second edition of the latilong study. However, it has been three years, and we need to do it one more time.

The major goal of this revision is a verification of all existing records and the development of a hard copy file and cross-reference system. This work will be tedious and require a great deal of dedication to detail. I do not feel that one person should or could assume full responsibility and am therefore looking for lots of volunteers.

The basic job will be to verify existing records and confirm new records. For each species in each latilong block, a file will be developed and records will be entered showing date, location, and justification (CFO Records Committee record, museum specimen, published report, etc.). Volunteers can either assume responsibility for a group of species (i.e. warblers), or a geographic area (i.e. Block 14). Hopefully, there will be considerable overlap which will act as a control.

I suspect that this will mean that some obvious records will be eliminated due to a lack of confirming data. This will put us into the next cycle of recording species occurrence which is the objective of the latilong study in the first place.

If individuals do not wish to assume responsibility for a large portion of work, they can still help. We need photographs of all species with accurate date and location data. This means every species for every latilong block. If, for example, you could photograph Rock Dove in all four seasons in all 28 latilong blocks, that would be a significant contribution.

Given the fact that we do not have an unlimited budget, we cannot afford to copy all material. Therefore, if you could send copies of your photos, with exact date and location, or donate the originals, we would appreciate it. For the time being, send all material to me or the CFO Records Committee.

If you are interested in working on the latilong revision, let me know what role you wish to play. I'll try to get everything organized this summer, including a time schedule.

GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY ANNUAL SPRING BIRD COUNT

19 MAY 1985

PIED-BILLED GREBE	2	LEWIS' WOODPECKER	6
EARED GREBE	1	YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	1
WESTERN GREBE	1	WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER	3
GREAT BLUE HERON	7	DOWNY WOODPECKER	1
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT- HERON	1	NORTHERN FLICKER	21
CANADA GOOSE	31	WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE	1
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	12	WILLOW FLYCATCHER	2
MALLARD	92	HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER	2
NORTHERN PINTAIL	3	DUSKY FLYCATCHER	22
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	1	GRAY FLYCATCHER	1
CINNAMON TEAL	20	WESTERN FLYCATCHER	1
NORTHERN SHOVELER	3	SAY'S PHOEBE	10
GADWALL	1	CASSIN'S KINGBIRD	5
RING-NECKED DUCK	32	WESTERN KINGBIRD	65
BUFFLEHEAD	1	EASTERN KINGBIRD	2
RUDDY DUCK	1	HORNED LARK	56
TURKEY VULTURE	30	PURPLE MARTIN	2
NORTHERN HARRIER	2	TREE SWALLOW	92
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1	VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW	97
COOPER'S HAWK	3	NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	117
RED-TAILED HAWK	10	CLIFF SWALLOW	71
GOLDEN EAGLE	6	BARN SWALLOW	181
AMERICAN KESTREL	30	STELLAR'S JAY	12
PRAIRIE FALCON	2	SCRUB JAY	15
CHUKAR	5	PINYON JAY	119
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	21	CLARK'S NUTCRACKER	3
BLUE GROUSE	1	BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	87
GAMBEL'S QUAIL	51	AMERICAN CROW	23
SORA	4	COMMON RAVEN	52
AMERICAN COOT	39	BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	1
KILLDEER	42	MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE	9
AMERICAN AVOCET	6	PLAIN TITMOUSE	5
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	7	BUSHTIT	4
COMMON SNIPE	3	WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	3
WILSON'S PHALAROPE	16	PYGMY NUTHATCH	3

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	3	ROCK WREN	20
RING-BILLED GULL	1	CANYON WREN	20
ROCK DOVE	99	BEWICK'S WREN	13
MOURNING DOVE	163	HOUSE WREN	15
WESTERN SCREECH-OWL	2	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	4
BURROWING OWL	1	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	30
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	1	WESTERN BLUEBIRD	12
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT	196	MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD	62
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD	14	TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	7
BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD	33	AMERICAN ROBIN	9
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	GRAY CATBIRD	2
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	5	VESPER SPARROW	4
SAGE THRASHER	3	LARK SPARROW	51
CEDAR WAXWING	40	BLACK-THROATED SPARROW	2
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	8	SAGE SPARROW	7
EUROPEAN STARLING	168	LARK BUNTING	1
GRAY VIREO	2	SONG SPARROW	16
SOLITARY VIREO	15	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	13
WARBLING VIREO	16	DARK-EYED JUNCO	20
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	24	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	170
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER	5	WESTERN MEADOWLARK	109
YELLOW WARBLER	51	BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	294
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	17	GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE	2
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER	8	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	111
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER	4	NORTHERN ORIOLE	30
WILSON'S WARBLER	3	SCOTT'S ORIOLE	1
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	8	PINE SISKIN	224
WESTERN Tanager	8	LESSER GOLDFINCH	2
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK	26	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	1
BLUE GROSBEAK	4	EVENING GROSBEAK	13
INDIGO BUNTING	1	CASSIN'S FINCH	10
LAZULI BUNTING	53	HOUSE FINCH	64
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE	40	HOUSE SPARROW	112
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	23		
CHIPPING SPARROW	29		
BREWER'S SPARROW	21		

7 parties; 30 participants; all parties contributed unique species. 141 species total.

KING RAIL - SECOND COLORADO RECORD

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On May 12, 1985, I saw a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) at lower Latham Reservoir. The sighting was for about one second before the bird disappeared into the cattail marsh. At the time I was trying to call in Sora and Virginia Rails. I came back on May 14 but failed to see the King Rail. On May 17 I came back with a King Rail tape which was answered, but the bird did not appear. On May 23 I returned and placed the recorder on top of the cab of my truck and let it play. After about 20 seconds, I heard a "bup-bup-bup" coming from a hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) marsh on the south side of the road. I went around to the back of my truck and while still using the truck as a blind I saw the rail in the sunshine about 10 yards away. I looked at my watch and it was 6:42 p.m. I was able to closely observe this cootsized rail and determined that it was an adult. The bill was long and slightly downcurved. This bird was very upset and displayed territorial behavior, raising its tail in an upward position. The bird was in breeding plumage. It was out in the open for about 10 minutes after which it went out of sight into the bulrush marsh. That evening I called some other CFO members and news of the observation began to spread. On June 1, Vic Zerbi and Peter Gent also observed the bird. I have returned five times since the May 23 sighting, and observed the bird on May 27 and June 2. At the time of this writing it was not determined whether it was a single bird or whether it had a mate. The King Rail had been previously sighted in Colorado in 1976 near Pueblo.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD FLEDGLING FEEDING INCIDENTS

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During three separate D.F.O. field trips in the summer of 1984, host species were observed feeding Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater). In all three incidents the young cowbird was calling incessantly and was able to fly short distances although they were reluctant to do so. All three seemed in good health and were fed frequently even though several observers watched from nearby.

On July 1, 1984 a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (Regulus calendula) were observed feeding a young cowbird in a lodgepole pine. The cowbird was perched on a twig, 10 feet up, near the trunk. This incident occurred in a thinned stand of lodgepole pine, north of Dillon Lake Campground at 9,100 feet.

The second incident occurred on July 28th at Echo Lake in the willow shrub marsh at the northwest end of the lake (10,600 feet). In this case the host parents were Wilson's Warblers (Wilsonia pusilla).

A third observation was made on August 11 at the Endo Valley Picnic area in Rocky Mountain National Park (8,640 feet). The young cowbird was being fed on the ground by a pair of Chipping Sparrows (Spizella passerina). The habitat was mixed pines and deciduous shrubs.

This type of incident presents many opportunities for studies because of the reluctance of young cowbirds to move and the strong urge to feed by the host parents. The loud calling of the young should facilitate discovery of these birds by alert observers. The information gained will help in the understanding of host-cowbird relationships.

A SUMMARY OF 1984 COLORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Charles Chase, III
 Denver Museum of Natural History
 City Park
 Denver, CO 80205

Twenty-nine Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in Colorado between December 15-30, 1984. This summary was compiled from count data received by Helen Downing, regional editor for American Birds.

There were 161 species plus 12 additional races, with approximately 296,073 individual reported. Only one species, the Black-billed Magpie was reported on all 29 counts. No additional species were reported during the various count weeks.

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number Obsv.</u>	<u>Party Hours</u>	<u>Party Miles</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Individ.</u>
Aspen	12/30	8	8	75	37(3)	1631
Barr Lake	12/22	10	26	178	57(2)	11878
Blk Forest	12/16	20	24	212	38	1116
Bonny Res.	12/30	8	27	142	52(3)	18470
Boulder	12/16	145	257	678	94(5)	26969
Colo Spgs	12/22	72	117	350	77(4)	8360
Curecanti	12/19	8	27	222	35	938
Denver	12/15	140	230	719	99(5)	30972
Douglas	12/30	40	68	251	53(4)	3830
Durango	12/29	10	27	203	57	2072
Evergreen	12/22	76	60	575	40(3)	3478
Ft Collins	12/22	21	87	383	72(3)	21562
Gr. Junc.	12/16	14	92	375	84(2)	15515
Greeley	12/30	26	39	304	50(1)	24985
Gunnison	12/23	11	18	175	39(4)	2993
Hotchkiss	12/19	1	10	133	56(1)	2069
Indian Pks	12/29	29	109	273	37(4)	1639
Lk Isabel	12/15	10	30	206	60(3)	1987
Longmont	12/15	31	114	484	82(3)	31987
Mt. Vista NWR	12/18	2	16	279	34	22649
N. Park	12/26	8	30	228	19	291
Nunn	12/20	7	23	350	27	2445
Pueblo	12/15	12	37	119	82	14191

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number Obsv.</u>	<u>Party Hours</u>	<u>Party Miles</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Individ.</u>
Pueblo Res	12/23	14	44	270	78(3)	3964
Roar. Fork R.V.	12/29	22	60	120	58	2159
Rky. Mtn. Nat. Park	12/16	21	69	376	40(3)	1868
San Luis Valley	12/30	3	12	71	16	579
Weldona	12/16	5	10	68	50(3)	33615
Ft. Morgan Westcliffe	12/16	7	27	192	42(3)	1891

Species of 1000 or more individuals:

Canada Goose	55923	American Crow	3310
Mallard	50330	Oregon Junco	2859
Red-winged Blackbird	33607	Ring-billed Gull	2830
European Starling	28543	Dark-eyed Junco	2130
Horned Lark	16086	Black-capped Chickadee	2094
House Sparrow	11713	Rosy Finch	2057
Rock Dove	6406	Pygmy Nuthatch	1726
Black-billed Magpie	5484	Steller's Jay	1526
American Tree Sparrow	5443	Red Crossbill	1406
House Finch	4830	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1369
Bohemian Waxwing	4507	Gray-crowned Rosey Finch	1344
American Robin	3826	Slate-colored Junco	1221
Pine Siskin	3696	White-crowned Sparrow	1019
Mountain Chickadee	3666	Red-shafted Flicker	1019
Evening Grosbeak	3441		

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Common Loon	2	2 PB	3
Pied-billed Grebe	10	16 BL	45

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Eared Grebe	3	3 GJ	5
Western Grebe	4	30 BL	35
Double-crested Cormorant	1	2 DN	2
Great Blue Heron	17	22 DN	111
Green-backed Heron	1	1 PB	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	1 FC	1
Tundra Swan	2	2 BL	3
Trumpeter Swan	1	3 GN	3
Great White-fronted Goose	2	3 FC	4
Snow Goose	6	15 BN	20
Ross' Goose	1	1 LN	1
Canada Goose	21	15353 GR	55923
Wood Duck	6	19 DN	31
Green-winged Teal	13	85 FC	250
Mallard	26	18000 MV	50330
Northern Pintail	11	150 MV	471
Blue-winged Teal	1	2 RF	2
Northern Shoveler	6	60 BL	130
Gadwall	10	61 FC	246
American Wigeon	14	269 BL	956
Canvasback	4	2 DN, PR	9
Redhead	8	45 PB	100
Ring-necked Duck	10	101 BL	292
Lesser Scaup	14	166 DN	284
Common Goldeneye	16	203 CR	750
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	31 RF	32
Bufflehead	7	30 DN	61
Hooded Merganser	3	11 PB	25
Common Merganser	14	252 DN	784
Red-breasted Merganser	4	8 BL	12
Ruddy Duck	4	4 BL	7
Duck sp.	2	10025 WE	10025
Turkey Vulture (most field marks)	1	1 LN	1
Bald Eagle	21	20 BL 58a, 24i, (127)	
Northern Harrier	22	27 GJ	175
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	3 CS, GJ	18
Cooper's Hawk	7	5 GJ	18
Northern Goshawk	11	6 GJ	25
Accipter sp.	4	2 LN	5

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	24	57 DN	416
Harlan's Hawk	7	5 DN	18
Ferruginous Hawk	12	34 BL	100
Rough-legged Hawk	24	37 MV	305
Buteo sp.	7	10 GR	22
Golden Eagle	25	24 LN 74a,32i,(133)	
American Kestrel	22	72 GJ	422
Merlin	6	4 GR	11
Prairie Falcon	16	9 DN	44
Falcon sp.	1	1 LI	1
Hawk sp.	2	7 EV	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	112 MV	320
Blue Grouse	1	4 IP	4
White-tailed Ptarmigan	1	2 IP	2
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	3 DL	3
Wild Turkey	2	20 LI	34
Northern Bobwhite	1	21 WE	21
Scaled Quail	4	60 PB	140
Gambel's Quail	1	106 GJ	106
Virginia Rail	4	1 DL,HO,PB,WE	4
American Coot	11	315 PB	849
Killdeer	13	19 GJ	79
Spotted Sandpiper (no details)	2	2 PB	3
Common Snipe	15	26 LN	100
Ring-billed Gull	8	2022 DN	2830
Herring Gull	8	49 BL	103
Glaucous Gull	2	3 BL	4
Rock Dove	25	1156 GJ	6406
Mourning Dove	10	523 GJ	678
Common Barn-Owl	1	1 GJ	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	5 DN	7
Western Screech-Owl	2	2 GJ	3
Great Horned Owl	19	32 DN	161
Snowy Owl	1	1 PB	1
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	2 DN	2
Long-eared Owl	3	3 DN	5
Short-eared Owl	3	1 GR,LN,NU	3
Belted Kingfisher	21	31 DN	121

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Lewis' Woodpecker	7	13 GJ	46
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	1 BN,GR	2
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1	1 PR	1
Downy Woodpecker	25	58 BL	323
Hairy Woodpecker	20	36 BL	175
Three-toed Woodpecker	2	2 IP	3
Northern Flicker	8	240 BL	332
Yellow-shafted	4	52 PB!!	62
Red-shafted	19	239 DN	1019
Horned Lark	21	5131 PB	16086
Barn Swallow	1	1 BL	1
Gray Jay	5	14 IP	40
Steller's Jay	19	559 BL	1526
Blue Jay	13	60 LN	400
Scrub Jay	14	161 DO	558
Pinyon Jay	5	233 WC	355
Clark's Nutcracker	9	193 WC	291
Black-billed Magpie	29	1006 DN	5484
American Crow	22	574 DN	3310
Chihuahuan Raven	1	21 CS	21
Black-capped Chickadee	26	462 DN	2094
Mountain Chickadee	25	1199 BL	3666
Plain Titmouse	6	27 GJ	45
Bushtit	5	25 DN,PJ	81
Red-breasted Nuthatch	19	367 BL	1369
White-breasted Nuthatch	23	159 BL	477
Pygmy Nuthatch	12	537 BL	1726
Brown Creeper	20	47 BL	195
Rock Wren	2	5 GJ	6
Canyon Wren	6	7 BL	22
Bewick's Wren	5	11 HO	24
House Wren	1	1 PB	1
Winter Wren	1	2 DN	2
Marsh Wren	5	20 HO	24
American Dipper	14	42 RM	228
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	39 BL	61
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	16 GJ	30
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1 GJ	1
Eastern Bluebird	1	4 BN	4

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Western Bluebird	1	6 DR	6
Mountain Bluebird	5	23 GJ	33
Townsend's Solitaire	24	194 DN	809
Wood Thrush	1	1 DN	1
American Robin	25	812 FC	3826
Varied Thrush	2	1 BL,GJ	2
Northern Mockingbird	2	1 BN, DN	2
Brown Thrasher	2	2 CS	3
Water Pipit	4	6 PB	10
Bohemian Waxwing	12	3336 FC	4507
Cedar Waxwing	11	135 FC	538
Northern Shrike	25	10 CS, DN, RM	105
Loggerhead Shrike	5	7 GJ	15
European Starling	27	4799 GR	28543
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	1 DN, PR	2
Myrtle	1	1 LN	1
Audubon's	1	4 GJ	4
Green-tailed Towhee	3	1 BL, GN, HO	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	14	30 BL	136
Brown Towhee	3	42 PR	55
American Tree Sparrow	25	919 PB	5443
Lark Sparrow	1	1 GJ	1
Black-throated Sparrow	1	10 MV	10
		(no details)	
Fox Sparrow	3	2 DN	4
Song Sparrow	19	157 DN	862
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	2 DO	2
Swamp Sparrow	2	2 PB	3
White-throated Sparrow	2	2 PR	3
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1	1 DN	1
White-crowned Sparrow	14	364 PB	1019
Harris's Sparrow	8	15 BL	50
Sparrow sp.	2	100 GR	101
Dark-eyed Junco	17	339 DN	2130
Slate-colored Junco	18	325 BL	1221
White-winged Junco	11	44 EV	125
Oregon Junco	23	673 GJ	2859
Gray-headed Junco	16	230 DN	930
Lapland Longspur	5	31 PB	74

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Counts</u>	<u>High, Count Number</u>	<u>Total Individuals</u>
Red-winged Blackbird	23	14153 LN	33607
Western Meadowlark	15	204 GJ	478
Rusty Blackbird	1	26 PB	26
Brewer's Blackbird	11	30 PR	122
Common Grackle	4	13 GR	23
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	1 DR, LI, PR	3
Rosy Finch	10	656 GN	2057
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	13	383 NU	1344
Black Rosy Finch	4	36 GN	45
Brown-capped Rosy Finch	5	563 GN	777
Pine Grosbeak	8	92 DO	188
Cassin's Finch	14	215 LN	935
House Finch	21	1187 CS	4830
Red Crossbill	14	490 BL	1406
Common Redpoll	7	63 FC	204
Pine Siskin	23	1128 FC	3696
Lesser Goldfinch	1	9 CS	9
American Goldfinch	21	194 DN	876
Evening Grosbeak	17	981 DN	3441
House Sparrow	26	2030 GR	11713

BOOK REVIEW

Nature Through Tropical Windows

Alexander F. Skutch

Illustrations by Dana Gardner

University of California Press, Berkeley
\$19.95 hard cover

I first became acquainted with the books of Alexander Skutch in 1975 while spending two years in Costa Rica. I asked my sister to send me his Life Histories of Central American Birds (3 volumes) and I became a fan of Skutch when I began to read those wonderful accounts of neotropical birds. In the intervening years I have acquired other books by Skutch, including A Naturalist in Costa Rica, The Life of the Hummingbird, Life Histories of Central American Highland Birds and A Birdwatcher's Adventures in Tropical America.

For those not familiar with Alexander Skutch, he was trained as a botanist but is best known for his work in ornithology. He traveled to Costa Rica in 1935, and later settled in the nearly pristine highland forest of southern Costa Rica near San Isidro de General. He has remained at his farm there, called Los Cusingos, and has written several books and hundreds of articles. Skutch is a pioneer in the study of neotropical birds, especially their life histories and nesting habits, and is probably the most prolific and entertaining writer in this fascinating field. The range of subjects covered by his work is impressive. In addition to ornithology he has written on botany, ecology, philosophy and religion.

In Nature Through Tropical Windows Skutch describes natural history as he observes it through the open windows of his house at Los Cusingos. Ten of the eighteen chapters deal with common species of birds that nest in his yard or in the immediate vicinity of his house. He has previously published life histories of some of these species. In this book he covers Southern House Wren (Troglodytes musculus), Blue and White Swallow (Pygochelidon cyanoleuca), Bananaquit (Coereba flaveola), Little Hermit (Phaethornis longuemareus), White-crested Coquette (Lophornis adorabilis), Boat-billed Flycatcher (Megarynchus pitangua) and

Black-striped Sparrow (Arremonops conirostris). I saw all but one of these species in Costa Rica, and some were common, everyday birds, but I never observed them in such detail, nor did I ever find any of their nests. These chapters on their life history, including nesting, roosting, feeding habits, song (and in Skutch's inimitable style, even their "personality") are tremendously detailed and entertaining.

I found it quite satisfactory to read about such details as the composition and location of Little Hermit's nests while I endured a harsh Colorado winter. (They are usually beneath fronds of small palms, protected by long black spines, generally from two to five feet up; composed of "...vegetable down; tawny pappi; long, chestnut-colored scales from the fronds of tree-ferns; some shreds of inner bark; some long slender fragments of fern fronds and monocotyledonous leaves; a few tufts of moss; and cobweb for binding.") This passage gives some of the feel for the detail in these accounts.

Equally interesting were the chapters concerning plants and their relationships with bird species which use them for food. The feeding assemblages that Skutch describes around some of the more desirable fruiting or flowering trees are really amazing. In "A Favorite Food of Birds" Skutch discusses "arils". Rare in temperate zones, arils are commonly produced by certain trees in tropical forests. These trees produce a capsular fruit, or seed, that is covered by a tough coat; this in turn is surrounded by a soft, nutritious tissue known as an aril. While most arils taste bitter to man, birds relish them above many other available foods. The tough coating beneath the aril renders the seed nearly indigestible so that the tree gains the advantage of dispersal of its seeds. When later regurgitated by the bird, the seed (now divested of its tasty aril) is free to germinate. The chapter "Fascinating Weeds", while peppered with bewildering botanical jargon, was indeed fascinating to read.

When Skutch stumbles it is when he enters the field of philosophy and when he endows wild animals with the traits of man. In the chapter "Miniatures and Giants" he expounds the idea that in animals, smaller is better. While this may be true in regard to resource usage and in the pleasures that many small animals bring to man, when Skutch extends this thinking to the stature of man the idea becomes offensive. In "Selfishness, Altruism and Cooperation" I was nearly unable to understand his concept of "selfishness". I cannot attribute to birds, or any other wild

animals, any "psychic or moral quality" as does Skutch. At the same time, I admit that I don't understand much about sociobiology.

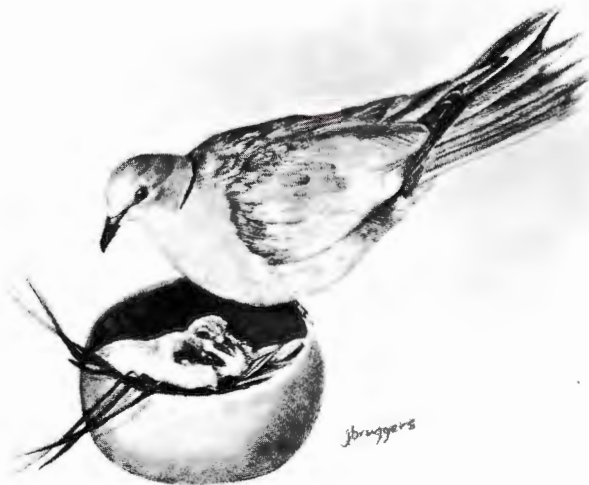
In his last two chapters, "The Naturalist's Progress" and "Windows of the Mind" Skutch outlines the development of a naturalist. He takes him through a passage as a collector, then as a classifier and finally as a naturalist. Skutch goes on to say that a few naturalists become moralists. No naturalist demonstrates this any better than Alexander Skutch himself.

The illustrations by Dana Gardner, a frequent contributor of previous books, are quite beautiful, entertaining and well-placed. I found them especially helpful in the chapters on plants where they enhanced botanical discussions. This book deserves a place on the shelves of any birdwatcher with an interest in neotropical birds, in natural history, in naturalists or in Alexander Skutch.

Mark Janos

860 Sharpe Circle

Delta, CO



COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

WORKSHOP

FOR

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

September 21, 1985
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. Cajetan Center
9th and Lawrence
Auraria Campus
Denver, CO

Sponsored by:

Colorado Nongame Advisory Council
Colorado Audubon Council
Colorado Field Ornithologists
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Denver Audubon Society

The Colorado Division of Wildlife needs input to develop a list of special concern. This list includes nongame species about which more information is needed in order to understand their presence and current status in Colorado. This may include species with declining populations and/or low numbers. Input is needed from CFO members. If you cannot attend, please send your concerns to Fran Enright, 83 Long View, Evergreen, CO 80439.

Checklists Available

A "Checklist of Birds of the South Platte River (Tamarack Ranch) State Wildlife Area", published by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is available free by writing Bud Smith, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Northeast Region, 317 W. Prospect, Ft. Collins, CO 80526.

Barr Lake State Park "Bird List" is available from: Nature Center, Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Rd., Brighton, CO 80601

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1985 - 1986 Calendar of Events

Saturday and Sunday August 24 & 25, 1985 Shorebird Identification Clinic and Trip; clinic at the Denver Museum of Natural History, trip to local reservoir. Contact Charles Chase, 370-6353 to register. Cost of this clinic is \$7.50 for members, \$10.00 for nonmembers, and \$14.00 for both the clinic and a new membership in the CFO.

Saturday August 24, 1985, evening, CFO board meeting, DMNH

September 14, 1985: Annual Taxonomy Clinic with Allen Phillips and Charles Chase, contact Charles Chase (370-6353) to register, and suggestions for material you would like covered.

Saturday November 23, 1985: Gull Identification Clinic, contact Charles Chase (370-6353).

February 1986. Raptor Identification Clinic, Denver Museum of Natural History. Confirmed date and details to follow.

Late March or early April Field Trip to Monte Vista NWR for Whooping Cranes, Joint trip with the Glenwood Springs Audubon Society.

Saturday and Sunday April 26 and 27, 1986: Greater and Lesser Prairie Chicken to Yuma and Baca Counties, more details later.

May 18 and 19, 1986: 24th Annual CFO Convention, planned for Colorado Springs, more details later.

Memorial Day Weekend: Trip to Baca County.

June 21 and 22, 1986: Latilong Trip, location and more details later.

Checklist Available

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