

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



VOL. 19, No. 4

Winter, 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: Return postage guaranteed.

OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

President: Vic Zerbi, 1118 Red Mountain Drive, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601. Vice-President: Laurens Halsey, 6422 Bluebird, Longmont, CO 80501. Executive Secretary: David Blue, 3145 Westcliffe Dr. W., Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Treasurer: Fran Enright, 83 Long View, Evergreen, CO 80439. Directors: Nancy Taggart, Colorado Springs; Richard Bunn, Colorado Springs; Ron Lambeth, Grand Junction; William Prather, Lyons; Ron Ryder, Fort Collins; John Rawinski, Monte Vista.

CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Peter Gent (Chairman), Boulder; Richard Bunn, Colorado Springs; Ron Lambeth, Grand Junction; Winston William Brockner, Evergreen; Mark Janos, Delta; Steve Larson, Boulder; Kip Stransky, Durango.

CFO JOURNAL STAFF

Editor: Ann Hodgson, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216.

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 Resources History, City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable at the beginning of the year), including a subscription to CFO JOURNAL: Sustaining, \$100; Supporting, \$30; Contributing \$15; Regular \$8. Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership inquiries and renewals should be addressed to Fran Enright, Treasurer, 83 Long View, Evergreen, CO 84039. Send change of address to David Blue, 3145 Westcliff Dr. W., Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE CFO RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1984.82
Peter Gent	
SEASONAL REPORT: SUMMER 1985.88
Laurens R. Halsey	
A DIPPER FEEDING IN SWALLOW'S NESTS.93
Hugh Kingery	
AGAINST ALL ODDS: FIRST RECORD OF A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD IN COLORADO.94
Betsy Webb	
THE MESQUITE GRACKLE IN MESA COUNTY.97
Ron Lambeth	
ALBINISM IN NORTHERN PINTAIL	100
Bill Maynard	
IDENTIFICATION OF LAUGHING AND FRANKLIN'S GULLS.	102
Charles Chase III	
NONGAME CHECKOFF FUNDS BENEFIT BIRDS	107
Jim Scott	
OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT IN COLORADO	109
Laurens R. Halsey	
BOOK REVIEW - THE WESTERN BIRD WATCHER	111
David Blue	
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	115

Cover illustration: Western Meadowlark by Bart Bartol.

Please note that the drawing by Joe Rigli on page 74 (Vol. 19, No. 3) was of a Common Yellowthroat, not a Yellow-breasted Chat. The editor regrets the error.

The CFO Records Committee Report for 1984

Peter Gent
55 S. 35th St.
Boulder, CO 80303

This report discusses the records received by the committee in 1984, plus the changes resulting from the publication of the 35th supplement to the AOU's checklist of North American birds (1985). The changes are discussed more fully in the article by David Blue in the Fall, 1985 issue of the Journal. The six committee members who reviewed the 1984 records are William Brockner (Evergreen), Richard Bunn (Colorado Springs), Mark James (Delta), Ron Lambeth (Grand Junction), Steve Larson (Boulder) and Richard Stransky (Durango). The CFO checklist of Colorado birds has been updated and reprinted and is available from CFO officers. The state list now stands at 438 species.

Part 1. Species added to the CFO state list.

PACIFIC LOON (Gavia pacifica). The AOU has split the pacifica and arctica races of the Arctic Loon.

The species mainly occurring in the lower 48 states is the Pacific Loon which replaces the Arctic Loon (Gavia pacifica) on the state list.

CLARK'S GREBE (Aechmophorus clarkii). The AOU has split the clarkii and occidentalis races of the Western Grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis). Both species breed commonly in Colorado.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (Sphyrapicus nuchalis). The AOU has split the nuchalis and varius races of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius). The Red-naped Sapsucker breeds commonly in the mountains, but the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is not known to breed in Colorado.

Part 2. Species not added to the CFO State list.

VAUX'S SWIFT (Chaeturu vauxi). 30-84-40. One seen briefly from Panorama Point on Flagstaff Road overlooking Boulder, Boulder County, on 6/28/84. Most committee members are relatively unfamiliar with this species, so I sent the report to five experts in California and Louisiana. Their opinions are summed up in the quotes, "Thus, in summary, I think it quite likely that it was in fact a Vaux's Swift that was observed, but it is not beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was in fact a Chimney Swift" and "Personally, for a first state record of either Vaux's or Chimney, I might require a specimen or carefully heard vocalizations by an observer familiar with swift calls." The Boulder bird made no sound, and it was decided not to add this species to the state list.

Part 3. Category A records (submitted documentation supports the stated identificaton).

RED-THROATED LOON (Gavia stellata) 1-84-5. One in winter plumage seen on Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County on 11/5/84. (Steve Larson).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) 5-84-18. One adult seen at Alamosa NWR, Rio Grande County on 6/2 and 3/83. (Jon Kauffeld).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) 5-84-47. One immature seen at Sweitzer Lake, Delta County on 11/1/84. (Mark Janos).

TRUMPETER SWAN (Cygnus buccinator) 8-84-26. One in basic plumage at Dye Reservoir, Otero County on 11/25/83. (Richard Bunn)

TRUMPETER SWAN (Cygnus buccinator) 8-84-12. 5 adults and one immature seen at Brush Hollow Reservoir, Fremont County on 12/13, 14 and 15/83. A flock of this size is an unusual occurrence in Colorado. (Rosie and Jim Watts, William Maynard).

TRUMPETER SWAN (Cygnus buccinator) 8-12-50. One seen near Mack, Mesa County on 12/19/84. This bird was neck banded at Red Rock Lakes, NWR, Lakeview, Montana. (Van Graham).

COMMON MOORHEN (Gallinula chloropus) 17-84-42. One adult seen near Clifton, Mesa County on 5/4/84. (Richard Levad).

WHOOPIING CRANE (Grus americana) 16-84-7,8. One adult in breeding plumage seen at Hart's Basin, Eckert, Delta County on 3/23/82 and 4/27/82. (Mark Janos).

WHOOPIING CRANE (Grus americana) 16-84-23. One immature seen at Sweitzer Lake, Delta County on 4/5/84. (Mark Janos).

WHOOPIING CRANE (Grus americana) 16-84-24. One adult and two immatures seen at Hart's Basin, Eckert, Delta County on 4/8 and 9/84. This species seems quite regular on the west slope. (Mark Janos).

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (Pluvialis dominica) 18-84-9. One in basic plumage seen just west of Grand Junction, Mesa County on 9/21/83. (Ron Lambeth).

MARbled GODWIT (Limosa fedoa) 19-84-44. The first recorded nest of this species in Colorado was found on 5/26/84 just west of Grover, Weld County with 2 eggs in it. 3 eggs were found on 5/27 and four on 6/10. Only egg shells were found on 6/24 and predation was suspected. This species should now be followed by a B on the state checklist. (Lois Webster).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis) 19-84-10. Two seen at Barr Lake, Adams County on 9/11/83. (Larry Halsey).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Limnodromus griseus) 19-84-33. One juvenile seen at Hart's Basin, Eckert, Delta County on 9/19/84. (Mark Janos).

PARASITIC JAEGER (Stercorarius parasiticus) 22-84-11. One dark-phase immature seen at Union Reservoir, Weld County on 10/15 and 16/83. (Larry Halsey).

LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) 23-84-38. One immature seen at Cheraw Reservoir, Otero County on 5/25/84. (Doug Ward).

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) 23-84-14,15. Two immatures were at Washington Park in Denver on 1/24-31/84. (Pat Beran and Mark Janos).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla) 23-84-20. One immature seen at Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County on 12/1/83. (Van Truan).

CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia) 23-84-30. One seen at Highline Lake State Recreation Area, Loma, Mesa County on 4/30/84. (Ron Lambeth).

BOREAL OWL (Aegolius funereus) 28-84-43. Two adults observed near Slumgullion Pass, Hinsdale County on 3/16/84 and one adult seen near Spring Creek Pass, Hinsdale County on 4/7/84. This is a new, and the most southerly, area for Boreal Owl in Colorado. (John Rawinski).

LEAST FLYCATCHER (Empidonax minimus) 34-84-19. One in breeding plumage seen at Cascade Falls, west of Loveland, Larimer County on 7/5, 7 and 9/83. (Ann Means, Ruth & Warner Reeser).

WINTER WREN (Troglodytes troglodytes) 42-84-16. One adult seen at Billy Creek, Ouray County on 2/28/84. (Mark Janos).

SEDGE WREN (Cistothorus platensis) 42-84-31. One in breeding plumage seen at Colorado City, Pueblo County on 5/5/84. (David Silverman).

AMERICAN DIPPER (Cinclus mexicanus) 41-84-6. One seen and photographed on the Crook Christmas Count at Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County on 12/31/83. (Steve Larson).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (Catharus minimus) 44-84-37. One seen at Two Buttes Reservoir, Baca County on 5/24/84. (Doug Ward).

WOOD THRUSH (Hylocichla mustelina) 44-84-48. One seen on the Denver Christmas Count at Waterton, Jefferson County on 12/15/84. This is a very late date for the species. (Ann Bonnell).

VARIED THRUSH (Ixoreus naevius) 44-84-49. One male seen and photographed on the Grand Junction Christmas Count near Clifton, Mesa County on 12/16, 17 and 18/84. (Mark Janos and Ron Lambeth).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (Vireo flavifrons) 51-84-27. One in breeding plumage seen on the C.U. Campus, Boulder, Boulder County on 5/19, 20/84. (Jerry Cairo and Peter Gent).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (Vireo philadelphicus) 51-84-39. One seen at Crow Valley Campground, Briggsdale, Weld County on 9/1/84. (Judy Ward).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (Vermivora pinus) 52-84-3. One male seen at Two Buttes Reservoir, Baca County on 5/4, 5/79. (Steve Larson).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (Vermivora pinus) 52-84-45. One male in breeding plumage seen near Limon, Lincoln County on 5/20/84. (Ruth Kuening).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (Dendroica fusca) 52-84-36. One male in breeding plumage seen on the C.U. campus, Boulder, Boulder County on 5/14/84. (Doug Ward).

KENTUCKY WARBLER (Oporornis formosus) 52-84-4. One male seen at Ovid, Sedgwick County on 4/22/83. (Steve Larson).

SAGE SPARROW (Amphispiza belli) 56-84-22. One seen at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on 3/24/84. (Hugh Kingery).

SNOW BUNTING (Plectrophenax nivalis) 56-84-21. Ten in winter plumage seen at Caribou near Nederland, Boulder County on 1/26/84. (Dave Hallock).

Part 4. Category Band C Records. (Submitted documentation probably indicates a mis-identification or is too brief or incomplete to support the stated identification).

RED-NECKED GREBE (Podiceps grisegena) 2-84-25. One seen at Brush Hollow Reservoir, Penrose, Fremont County on 4/7/84. The committee was equally divided over this record; for three members the description was not quite adequate or detailed enough.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Limnodromus griseus) 19-84-35. One at Prospect Reservoir, Weld County and a flock of 12 at Ireland Reservoir, Weld County both on 4/30/84. Several members thought the description of the birds' call did not adequately eliminate

Long-billed Dowitcher. The calls of these two species are very similar, and identification should probably not be based on this alone.

LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) 23-84-32. One seen at Lake Meredith, Crowley County on 6/3/84. Several members thought that this description was too brief and that a first summer Franklin's Gull was not adequately eliminated.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) 23-84-13. One seen at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder, Boulder County on 1/15/84. The committee was also equally divided on this record, but several thought that eye color cannot be definitely determined at a distance of 150 m.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus marinus) 23-84-34. One immature seen at Union Reservoir, Weld County on 4/26/84. Members thought this bird was seen rather briefly and did not have quite enough details for certainty.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologist's Union, 1985. Thirty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologist's Union Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 102, 680-686.

Seasonal Report: Summer 1985

Laurens R. Halsey
6422 Bluebird Ave.
Longmont, CO 80501

This seasonal report summarizes reported observations of birds for June and July 1985. Of the reporting observers, two were out-of-state visitors; one from California and one from North Carolina. The reports for this season include one new state record, several "rare" species, and several latilong records.

Special thanks goes to Hugh Kingery, "American Birds" regional editor for the intermountain region. Mr. Kingery provided the data and reports that make this and all CFO seasonal reports possible.

Loons through Grebes

Three Common Loon were reported during the summer; one in Durango 28 June and 6 July, one each at Adobe Creek and Jumbo Reservoirs 28 July. MJ reports "best production so far at Hart's Basin" for Western Grebes with 110 young, the first young 28 June. No east slope reports of Western Grebes. Also no reports of Clark's Grebe, this species is now considered to be a separate species and distribution within Colorado needs to be studied. Eared Grebes appeared to have a successful breeding season, two locations; San Luis Valley 28 July and North Park 4 August, had a total of 55 pairs of adults and 2 young for each pair.

Cormorants through Ibis

An adult Olivaceous Cormorant was found at Little Jumbo Reservoir 28 July (PWL, JR, LH), this appears to be the fifth state record. Least Bitterns were again found at Sawhill Ponds near

Boulder (no reports last summer), both male and female were seen at least 5-11 July (DJW, WL, LH). A Great Egret was reported seven miles south of Durango 15 May, this appears to be a new latilong record (EF). Two juvenile Little Blue Heron were found at Lake Meredith 27 July, this may suggest breeding at a nearby rookery (WL, LH). One immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found 28 July at Little Jumbo Reservoir. EM reports a new colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets, and White-faced Ibis on the Monte Vista N.W.R. Also at the refuge, at another colony, Cattle Egrets were breeding. The biggest excitement for the summer was the discovery of Colorado's first White Ibis. The bird, an immature, was found by Dan Bridges at Nee Sopah Reservoir on 22 July. Reports from many observers indicate that the bird was seen through at least 28 July. A note to those who saw the White Ibis, please send any details and photographs (if any) to the CFO records committee.

Geese through Ducks

Unusual were reports of Snow Geese; 31 May - 1 June at Little Jumbo Reservoir and 27-28 July at Nee Sopah Reservoir. BT noted a lack of Wood Ducks near Grand Junction. One female Wood Duck was seen leading 19 young on a reservoir northeast of Boulder (BJ). EM reports that Monte Vista N.W.R. produced 25,600 ducks this summer, an increase of 24% over last year, but Alamosa N.W.R. produced only 6,000 ducks, a decrease of 26%. Poor success at Alamosa was apparently due to flooding on the refuge.

Vultures through Rails

Turkey Vulture reports were mixed, increases on the west slope near Eagle and Delta, and "poorest numbers in twenty years near Evergreen" (WWB). Mississippi Kites appear to have established a small colony in Pueblo this summer. There were six Bald Eagle nests reported plus one other possible; of the known nests, one was on the eastern plains. DH reported that accipiter and buteo appeared in good numbers during the spring but they were

inconspicuous during the breeding season. A former state resident visiting noted a lack of Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks as compared to his past observations. Others noted the two species as a special concern. JC found a King Rail in May at Lower Latham Reservoir, the bird was seen and heard into June, voice recorded 2 June.

Shorebirds

From received reports, it appears that there was a strong push of Calidrine species (Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped, and Baird's) by at least mid-July. Snowy Plover reports came from only two reservoirs, Adobe Creek and Nee Sopah. On 21 July, MJ had 28 Semipalmated Sandpipers, an unusually high number at Hart's Basin near Delta. Twenty-five White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from Adobe Creek Reservoir 15 June with 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers (moving north or south).

Gulls through Terns

One adult Laughing Gull was found at Adobe Creek Reservoir 15 June (RB, DLB, PWL, LH). An early juvenile Bonaparte's Gull was reported at Jumbo Reservoir 28 July. Two reports of Caspian Terns, two adults in breeding plumage at Adobe Creek Reservoir 15 June and one at Lake Cheraw 3 August. A locally early Black Tern was found at Hart's Basin 21 July.

Owls through Hummingbirds

A Flammulated Owl was located near Boulder on 2 July (MF). Six calling Western Screech Owls were found in Cottonwood Canyon 15-16 July. Black Swifts were reported from three locations this summer; eight at Hanging Lake 14 July (VZ), seven in Rocky

Mountain National Park 10 July (BR), and one at Sawhill Ponds east of Boulder 6 July (DJW, LH). VZ reported a very early Calliope Hummingbird in Glenwood Springs 11 June. Several observers noted an increase in the numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds seen this

summer. Apparently three Magnificent Hummingbirds spent the summer near Bailey, reported from 9 June through 27 July (fide WWB, LH).

Woodpeckers through Swallows

A Three-toed Woodpecker nest was found by several observers this summer in the Endovalley area of Rocky Mountain National Park; the area has scores of dead and dying trees. MF reported greater than normal numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers this summer west of Boulder. Purple Martins were reported from the Uncompahgre Plateau (BJ, MJ) and breeding on McClure Pass (VZ, JM).

Corvids through Wrens

Clark's Nutcrackers appeared in very good numbers this summer. Three American Crows were unusual for the summer near Eagle. A Winter Wren was discovered on the Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Census 15 June (fide DH).

Mimics through Warblers

A Gray Catbird spent the summer in Glenwood Springs, an unusual visitor for the west slope (VZ). Bendire's Thrashers were reported from the foothills northwest of Del Norte, three on 19 June and one on 13 July (different areas). Red-eyed Vireo was again breeding west of Boulder this summer. An adult Orange-crowned Warbler was observed feeding a juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird on McClure Pass 14 July (JW, PWL, LH); this is a new lati-

long breeding record. A female "Brewster's" Warbler (hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers) was observed from 5 feet at the Denver Technical Center 6 June (HK). Ovenbirds were reported breeding near Sedalia this summer.

Tanagers through Finches

Hepatic Tanagers were found this summer near Mesa de Maya in Las Animas County. Dickcissels were reported throughout the eastern plains this summer. Green-tailed Towhee and Lincoln's

Sparrow numbers appeared up west of Boulder (MF). Fox Sparrows were reported from the Uncompaghre Plateau in June. A territorial male Bobolink was reported from near Norwood on the west slope, this appears to be a first latilong record. After high numbers last winter, Red Crossbill numbers appear to have declined heavily. A male "Green-backed" Lesser Goldfinch was found near Fort Morgan 4 June.

Reporting Observers

David and Linda Blue (DLB), Winston W. Brockner (WWB), Richard Bunn (RB), Jerry Cairo (JC), Gerry Craig (GC), Lee Evens (LE), Mike Figgs (MF), Elva Fox (EF), Dave Hallock (DH), Laurens R. Halsey (LRH), Loren Hays (Calif.) (LoH), Mark Jones (MJ), Bob Jickling (BJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Jan Justice (JJ), Hugh Kingery (HK), Harry LeGrand (No. Caro.) (HL), Pat and Wade Lietner (PWL), Thompson Marsh (TM), Jack Merchant (JM), Ed Merritt (EM), Jack Reddall (JR), Joe Rigli (JR), Bob Righter (BR), Bert Tignor (BT), Doug and Judy Ward (DJW), Elinor Wills (EW), Victor Zerbi (VZ).

A DIPPER FEEDING IN SWALLOW'S NESTS?

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

A pair of American Dippers (Cinclus mexicanus) has nested under the bridge which crosses the South Platte River at Waterton (Jefferson County, Colorado) for several years.

Prestressed concrete "I" beams form the underpart of the bridge. On one of the ledges formed by the "I" beam the Dippers have built two nests side by side. On another "I" beam Cliff Swallows have constructed nests along the angle formed by the top of the "I". About 50 nests line each side of the easternmost "I" beam.

On 7 December 1985 a group from Denver Audubon Society went under the bridge to look at the old nests. We observed a Dipper feeding in the icy water of the river downstream about 50 feet from the bridge. The bird flew up to a rock close to the bridge, then it flew up to one of the swallow nests, fluttered for a moment somewhat like a swallow approaching the nest, and entered the nest. We could see a wing or the tail sticking out. The bird stayed in the swallow nest for 10-20 seconds, and then dropped down to the ledge on the "I" beam. It then repeated the performance in a different nest.

We watched the bird go into four nests and flutter at the entrance to a fifth nest. We concluded that the bird was seeking food in the nests, and that perhaps the bird found some insects in the mud gourds built by the swallows.

AGAINST ALL ODDS:
FIRST RECORD OF A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD
IN COLORADO

Betsy Webb
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

On 16 September 1985, a female Magnificent Frigatebird (*Eregata magnificens*) was stoned to death at Green Mountain Reservoir, Summit County, by a group of anxious windsurfers who had been attacked by the bird. The following eyewitness accounts document the bizarre story of the bird's first sighting in Colorado to its final resting place at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

On 14 September, birdwatcher Hans Feddren was the first observer to report a frigatebird in Colorado. He observed the bird near Chatfield Reservoir and noted that one or more primaries were missing on both wings. A later report came from Marion Met-sopoulos, a resident of Lakewood living between Maple Grove Reservoir and Crown Hill Lake, who saw the bird circle overhead then fly eastward toward the downtown area at mid-day. Again on the same date, E. R. Timken, a resident of Heeney, Colorado, saw the bird in flight over Green Mountain Reservoir near his home through a scope. He recognized it as a frigatebird because of sightings on previous travels to Mexico. One of his neighbors, John Colishaw, saw the bird soaring on a later date and thought, at first glance, that it was a hang-glider. On 16 September, the bird attacked several windsurfers at the reservoir, including Dave Ingram and Jerry Mullikin of Vail. Eyewitness Dean Jones explained that there was about a 7-8 mile per hour on-shore breeze as the frigatebird hovered 20-25 feet over Mullikin and his windsurfer. A friend yelled to Mullikin, unaware of its presence, to look around, at which time the bird began to attack him. Unfortunately for Mullikin, the wind then died down. In

the calm, he was stranded offshore with the bird diving at him with its feet and bill. He received a gash on one of his hands. When the wind picked up, Mullikin made it to shore with the bird in pursuit. In defense, a group of windsurfers gathered onshore began throwing stones to ward off the attacks. Buzz Burke, a former Army medic currently with the Copper Mountain Ski Patrol, remembers that two stones hit the bird - first on the right side of the body and then on the right side of the head. Apparently stunned, the bird soared over the water ten feet up, then returned from 200 yards out to drop to the ground. At that point, Burke noticed that the right wing was badly broken and had fresh blood around the wound. There appeared to be an older wound with dried blood and pus on the right side of the neck. The group that had gathered decided to dispatch the bird by wringing its neck.

Mullikin, curious about this unusual bird, kept the carcass and identified it with a bird guide. Worried about having been injured by the bird, he contacted the Colorado Division of Wildlife to obtain information on possible diseases. District Wildlife Manager Bill Andree retrieved the carcass, recognized it as a frigatebird, and sent the frozen specimen to the Zoology Department at the Denver Museum of Natural History on 2 October.

Curator of Ornithology Charles Chase and Preparator Mary Kay Waddington conducted a necropsy of the specimen on 4 October. The bird was an adult female (based on the white plumage of the underside of the body) and had bred in the previous season as judged by the presence of an empty, enlarged ovarian follicle. It was in heavy molt and had several primaries missing on both wings, suggesting that the same individual was sighted at both Chatfield and Green Mountain Reservoirs. The skull was ossified, the wing cord measurement was 629 mm, and the total length was 875 mm. The bird had short nails, strongly suggesting that it was a wild bird (captive birds tend to have long nails from disuse). There was a small hematoma on the right side of the brain, a wound (approximately 40 mm in diameter) at the base of the right wing, and a smaller wound (approximately 20 mm in diameter) on the right side of the neck (possibly an old wound or one caused

by the protruding humerus of the broken wing). The bird weighed 1116 grams and had no fat. Average normal body weight for adult female Magnificent Frigatebirds is 1667 grams (Dunning 1984), suggesting that the bird was 30% underweight. There was nothing in the gastrointestinal tract except self-digested fluids, and the gizzard contained 40 parasitic roundworms. These findings indicate that the bird was in a starvation state which may have induced the abnormal behavior of attacking the windsurfers.

The frigatebird's unlikely appearance in Colorado coincided with Hurricane Elena in the Gulf of Mexico. Perhaps blown inland on the heels of the hurricane, the bird may have become injured and disoriented, thus ending up in Colorado over one thousand miles out of its normal range. The specimen (DMNH 39,020) is now housed in the Zoology Department's bird research collection.

Literature Cited

- Dunning, J. B., Jr. 1984. Body weights of 686 species of North American birds. Western Bird Banding Assoc. Monogr. No. 1.

The Mesquite Grackle in Mesa County ^{1/}

Ron Lambeth
3202 D 1/4 Road
Clifton, CO 81520

On the evening of May 1, 1985 a long-tailed, black magpie-sized bird flushed up to a small cottonwood perch in a backwater slough of the Colorado River, south of Clifton, Colorado. Soon the evening light failed and I had to abandon the watch. The apprehension about leaving a "good" bird was quickly extinguished the next morning by the sight of what appeared to be the same bird. This time it was vocalizing and the sounds were like a toy machine gun, cellophane being stretched and crushed, shrieks and "lewd" whistles. The machine gun vocalization came as rapid sets of staccato notes reminiscent of the galloping in the William Tell Overture. Almost all audible sounds were preceeded and attended by an erection of body feathers and posturing.

The iridescent blackbird with a large dorsally compressed tail and yellow iris was identified as a male great-tailed grackle (Quiscalus mexicanus). It is Mesa County's first record of this species. The bird was attended by three other dark birds of the same size, but with less developed tails and iridescence. A fifth bird, a resplendent male, appeared in a nearby tree, made no calls or song and was not seen in subsequent days. The other

^{1/} Mesquite grackle is the name given to a race of this grackle by Louisiana ornithologist, George Lowry, Jr. (Bent 1958). It is Q. m. prosopidicola, the wide-ranging race in Texas. Q. m. monsoni is the race (dark females) of New Mexico's Rio Grande River Valley, and Q. m. nelsoni is the Sonoran race (smaller, shortertailed, paler females) that may have come up the Colorado River. Since the race(s) in Colorado are undetermined mean that the title of this report is really a speculation.

birds disappeared a week later. A smaller, more furtive, smooth pumpkin pie-colored bird was later found and appeared to be associated with the male grackle. The bird's plumage was not as somber as the western race female which is illustrated in Scott (1983), but was like the richer-hued female shown in Scott's guide and also Farrand (1983). Rarely the female would fly up from cattails (*Typha latifolia*) and salt cedar (*Tamarix sp.*) to join the male for five or six second periods before dropping back into the thicket. This was observed at two sites. More often the male would drop down into those same locations. The forage range was at least a quarter mile long and the distribution of its song perches was almost that long (1200 ft.). The male's displays and vocal repertoire were impressive, yet they did not seem to match the efforts of the Texas grackles, which perhaps are stimulated by the competition found where the species is common.

After 5 June, I saw the female no more. The male was seen and heard as late as 4 July. Others were watching the birds also. Claudia Rector of Clifton acknowledged that a pair had been here last year. Richard Levad of Orchard Mesa located a nest in the salt cedar into which the female bird had been seen flying. It was 5.5 ft. off the ground and found to have a side missing. Two other nests of similar construction were found. One was 10 feet from the first nest, in better condition and also about 5.5 feet high in a salt cedar. The other nest was about 30 feet to the west, seven feet off the ground, in a salt cedar and appeared to be the newest and strongest. The dimensions of this last nest were 3.5 inches (inside depth), 4 inches (inside diam.), 9.5 inches (outside width). There was no mud or other cement used. The straw nest material was somewhat loosely woven and only a few strands looped around the branches. Nests of the similar boat-tailed grackle have inside measurements of 4-5 inches (diam.) and 2.75-4.0 inches (depth) (Harrison 1979). I found no egg shell fragments. No feeding activity, typical of parent birds, had been noted.

On 9 May Edgar Muhr of Fruita reported two immature great-tailed grackles east of his town. This would constitute the westernmost site reported for the species in Colorado (108° 41' W) and the northernmost site for the Western Slope (39° 10' N). Mark Janos (personal communication 1985) recorded this species in late summer in Delta.

Charles Chase III relates that great-tailed grackle reports have come in a rush. Colorado had nesting birds at Buena Vista, San Luis Valley and Pueblo in 1985. Additional sightings have come from Colorado Springs and Boulder. Utah had their first report of the species in 1977 and now it is a permanent resident, being reported as far north as Provo on Christmas counts (Ella Sorensen via C. Chase, personal communication 19-9-85). Whether these Utah birds are Monson's, the western race or the Mesquite race is not known. However, this first Mesa County record helps to fill the gap between records of the species in Utah and those from the eastern side of the Continental Divide in Colorado.

Literature Cited

- Bent, Arthur C. 1958. Life histories of North American blackbirds oriole, tanager, and allies. U.S. National Mus. Bull 211. New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 587pp.
- Farrand, John Jr. editor. 1983. The Audubon Society master guide to birding, vol. 3. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 339pp.
- Harrison, Hal H. 1979. A field guide to western birds' nests. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 279pp.
- Scott, Shirley L. editor. 1983. Field guide to the birds of North America. National Geographic Society. 464pp.

Albinism in Northern Pintail

Bill Maynard
372 Blue Windsor Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

While birding CF&I ponds in Pueblo, Colorado on the morning of 3 March 1985 with David and Linda Blue, an all white bird was discovered among a flock of 30-40 northern pintails. After taking preliminary guesses as to the bird's identification, we focused two 45x telescopes on the bird and saw that it was an albinistic male northern pintail. We approached closer and I photographed the bird both feeding and in flight. As it fed, the albinistic bird was not segregated nor was it harrassed by the other pintails. It was feeding as close as 1 m to the nearest duck.

Heterochrosis is the abnormal colorations in bird plumages. Albinism, a lack of pigment, is the most common type. (Pettingill, 1956). It seems to be due mainly to the genetic absence of the enzyme tyrosinase (Welty, 1982). Although albinism in birds is usually a result of heredity, it may also occur due to diet, senility, shock, disease and injury (Sage, 1962). Close examination of my photographs showed the pintail had a dark eye and bluish bill and some reddish feathering appeared on the face. This is categorized as partial albinism (Pettingill, 1956).

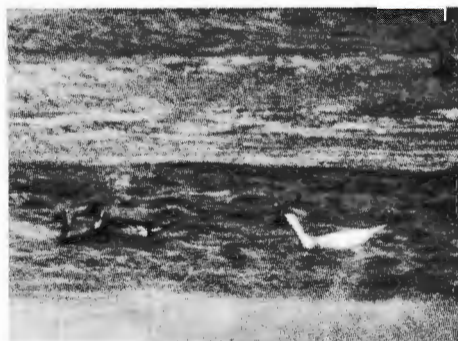
An exhaustitve literature search of albinism was compiled by C. Chandler Ross in 1963. Three specimens of albinistic northern pintails are currently in museums; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, The National Musuem, and Saskatchewan Museum. A fourth record is of "a fine full plumaged albino male at Avery Island, LA., Nov. 1936." (Terres, 1980). Further, there are specimens of 475 albinistic birds in museums and there are 600 references to albinism in numerous books and periodicals which represent 72 families and 245 species (Ross, 1963).

An interesting aside to this sighting is the discovery of an albinistic Bank Swallow on 18 August 1985 (Richard Bunn, unpublished) and a sighting of an albinistic American Coot, 28 September 1985 (David Blue, pers. comm.) all in the same area of CF&I ponds.

My thanks to Richard Bunn for his review of the format and his thoughtful suggestions.

LITERATURE CITED

- Gross, A.O. 1965. The Incidence of Albinism in North American Birds. Bird Banding 36(2): 67-71.
- Pettingill, J.R., O.S. 1956. A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology p. 143.
- Ross, C.C. 1963. Albinism among North American Birds. Cassinia 47: 2-21.
- Sage, B.L. 1962. Albinism and melanism in birds. British Birds 55(6): 200-223.
- Terres, J.K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds 1st ed. New York: Alfred Knopf
- Wēlty, J.C. 1982. Life of Birds 3rd ed. Holt, Rinehart and Winston p. 56.



IDENTIFICATION OF LAUGHING AND FRANKLIN'S GULLS

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

The subject of gull identification has been the focus of several books, numerous articles in "American Birds", "Birding", "Continental Birdlife", and "British Birds" as well as numerous regional journals. Gull identification clinics have been taught at museums and meetings around the world. Armed with all this new information birders have taken to the field in droves and seem quickly to develop the feeling Ashleigh Brilliant once noted: "In the light of all my new knowledge, Things are beginning to look very dark."

Authors writing about gulls have come primarily from the Pacific and both sides of the Atlantic (though the east side of the Atlantic is far ahead of the west). This has resulted in a regional bias and has presented problems for interior observers in that both Pacific and Atlantic species (and forms) can and do occur in areas such as Colorado. In fact, with the increase of garbage dumps, gulls are increasing at a phenomenal rate, especially in the winter.

The following is the first in a series of articles comparing similar species. Later articles will cover Glaucous vs. Glaucous-winged, Thayer's vs. Iceland (Kumlien's) and Ring-billed vs. Common (Mew) gulls.

Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan) is a fairly common spring and abundant fall migrant through agricultural and prairie regions of Colorado. It has been recorded throughout the state with scattered records through the entire year. Flocks of tens of thousands are frequently recorded along the front range during the fall. This species feeds over plowed fields and prairies

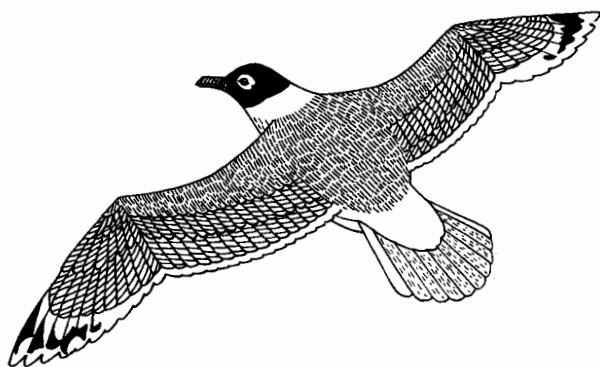
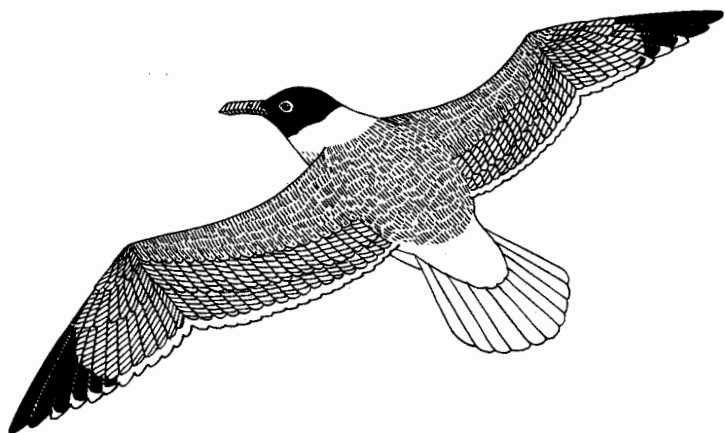


Figure 1. Adult Laughing (top)
and Franklin's (bottom) Gulls.

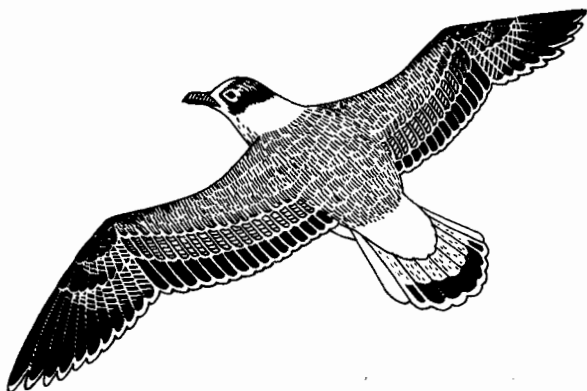
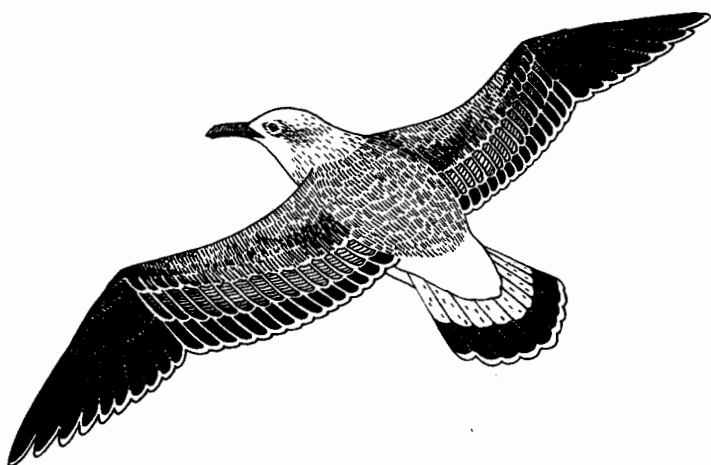


Figure 2. First-winter Laughing (top)
and Franklin's (bottom) Gulls.

often hawking insects in spectacular aerial displays; at night they roost on large reservoirs. Franklin's Gulls breed in the prairie pothole region of Canada, migrate primarily over the plains and winter off the west coast of South America. This smallish gull (13-15", wingspan 34-37") is unique in having two complete molts each year; other gulls have a complete fall molt and a head and body molt in early spring. It achieves breeding plumage in its second summer.

Breeding adults have a black head with bright white eye crescents which meet at the back of the eye. The stocky red bill (27-34mm) turns dark in winter. The adult wing has extensive white tips on the primaries, strongly contrasting with the black in the last 5-6 primaries. The inner portion of the primaries are gray; however, between the gray and the black is a white patch which is quite variable in size. The underwing has the same white bar at the base of the black in the primaries. The inner rectrices are gray contrasting with white outer rectrices. This rather chunky bird has a pinkish wash across the breast in breeding plumage. The adult winter plumage is similar except the black hood is replaced by a well-marked dark half hood, the underparts are pure white and the white in the wing is more extensive.

The juvenal plumage is lost between fledging and October and involves only the head, body and some inner wing coverts. Bill and legs change from a black to dull darkish red, which becomes brighter with each successive season. The brown mottled back of the juvenile turns gray, and the dark brownish half hood becomes darker and more distinct in first-winter. In all plumages the white eye crescents are prominent and the rump is always white. The outer primaries and most primary coverts are black, while the inner primaries are gray. There is a subterminal black center to the secondaries and a trailing white edge that reduces with wear. Secondary and some inner primary coverts are edged with brown. The tail has a black sub-terminal band on all but the two outermost rectrices which are white. The inner base of the tail is gray at all ages.

First-summer plumage has a black half hood, very little white on the tips of the primaries and no white at the base of the primaries. The second-winter resembles the adult plumage except for the reduced white on either side of the black primaries.

Franklin's Gulls are stocky and short-winged with rounded wing tips. They have short legs, bill, neck and tail. The appearance in flight is of a straight-winged compact bird.

The Laughing Gull (Larus atricilla) is a rare vagrant to Colorado, with most records from summer and fall, on large reservoirs. These birds have wandered up from the Gulf of Mexico and are frequently blown inland by hurricanes. Typically, single birds are found with flocks of Ring-billed and California gulls, rarely are they observed with Franklin's. Laughing Gulls breed along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida and throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. They winter through the southern portion of their breeding range and along both coasts of northern South America.

This long-winged (39-42") gull has a very different flight character than Franklin's: deeper wing beats, more jerky flight. Harrison (1983) correctly compares the Laughing Gull flight to a Parasitic Jaeger's long-winged flight. The slimmer but larger (15-17") body and long pointed wings give the Laughing Gull a much larger appearance which is enhanced by one of the most diagnostic characters: the bill and head shape. The flattened, sloping forehead with the long slightly drooping bill (35-44mm) markedly contrasts with the stubby bill and roundheaded Franklin's. When sitting, the long wings and bill reinforce the feeling of a large slim bird.

Breeding adults have dull red bills and legs which vary greatly in color intensity. The black hood frequently ends at the back of the crown unlike the Franklin's which extends onto the neck. The white eye crescents do not meet at the back of the eye and are not as wide as the Franklin's. There is no gray in the tail and the white tips of the primaries are greatly reduced. There is no white at the base of the primaries in any

plumage; however, the trailing edge of the wing is more extensively white than Franklin's. The pink flush on the breast usually wears off very early in the breeding season.

The hood of the winter adult is indistinctly gray and black, rarely extending below the ear. There are distinct white tips to the primaries which wear low by the breeding season. The bill and legs are black in all but the breeding plumage.

Juveniles have molted to first-winter by September, when they have lost the brown mottling on the head, neck, breast and wing coverts. First-winter birds have a white throat, gray breast and flanks, dark gray mantle and scapulars. The hood is weakly defined and gray-brown. The black primaries, secondary bar and subterminal band of the tail are more extensive than Franklin's. All rectrices have a black sub-terminal band.

First-summer plumage is a paler, more worn version of first-winter. Second year birds lose most of the black in the tail, secondaries and inner primaries. The hood remains indistinct though darker than first year plumages. The underwing is darker, with less white in all plumages than Franklin's.

And finally, the Laughing Gull is well named for its loud raucous "ha-ha-ha-ha-ha call. The Franklin's is generally a much quieter bird, has a soft "krrruk" call or a high "weeh-a, weeh-a", quite distinct from the Laughing Gull.

In conclusion, the Laughing Gull is longer and slimmer with a long slightly drooping bill (small females' bills may not droop but they still have a longish bill). There is no overlap in the length of the bill between these two species. The eye crescents are always smaller and rarely meet in back. The winter hood in all ages is never distinct and doesn't extend below the ear. First year plumages have a completely black tail band, gray breast contrasting with a white throat and no gray at the base of the tail. The white at the base of the black in the outer primaries is a good character for adult Franklin's but remember that immature plumages have dark wings more like Laughing Gulls. The

flight characters are completely different. The chunky, straight-winged flight of the Franklin's is much more acrobatic than the long-winged jerky flight of the Laughing Gull.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Stephanie Chase and David Blue for reading earlier drafts of this manuscript. The Denver Museum of Natural History provided access to specimens and records.

Literature Cited

Harrison, P. 1983. Seabirds, An Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin Co. 448 pp.

Nongame Checkoff Funds Benefit Birds

Jim Scott
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

Contributions to Colorado's nongame income tax check-off program, which is now entering its ninth year, will continue to benefit threatened and endangered bird populations in the state.

Last year, more than 60,000 Colorado taxpayers donated \$398,000 to the wildlife check-off program for the protection of nongame, threatened and endangered species in the state. Since the check-off's inception in 1978, Colorado residents have contributed more than \$4 million for wildlife, making Colorado the first state in the nation to reach that plateau.

Some of the Colorado Division of Wildlife's nongame bird projects which are funded by the check-off include:

* A peregrine falcon recovery effort, undertaken in cooperation with the Peregrine Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Parks Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Since 1976, nearly 300 endangered peregrines have been released into Colorado's wilds.

In 1985, a total of 52 peregrines were fledged in Colorado. Of the 35 birds hatched at seven sites around the state, 24 of these eventually fledged. In addition 15 out of 18 birds that were fostered last year eventually fledged, and six successful wild peregrine pairs produced a total of 13 fledged young without any manipulation.

* A recovery effort involving the greater prairie chicken. During the past two years, the Division has transplanted 76 endangered greater prairie chickens from their last stronghold in

Yuma County to the Tamarack Ranch State Wildlife Area near Sterling. As part of the project, portions of the Division-owned property were tilled, mowed, burned, and re-seeded with native grasses in order to improve the habitat for these birds.

In April of 1985, 25 females and 15 males were captured with cannon nets on several private ranches near Wray, tagged, and released on the Tamarack. Thirteen of these were equipped with radio transmitters, which allowed Division biologists to monitor their dispersal patterns, habitat preferences, and nesting behavior.

* The coordination of an annual mid-winter bald eagle survey in Colorado. This count, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, tallied 534 endangered bald eagles wintering in the state in 1985.

The largest concentrations of bald eagles last year were again in the southwestern portion of the state, where 203 birds were counted. The biggest concentration there -- 70 birds -- was in the Dry Creek Basin - Disappointment Valley area. In addition, 59 bald eagles were counted in the San Luis Valley, including 17 at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

* The lesser prairie chicken project. Beginning this spring, Division biologists will be monitoring the population trends and the habitat of the estimated 2,000-5,000 threatened lesser prairie chickens that reside on the Comanche National Grasslands in southeastern Colorado.

In addition, other avian-related check-off projects undertaken by the Division have included the acquisition of several hundred acres of wetland marsh habitat in the San Luis Valley, the initiation of public tours in North Park for the observation of sage grouse courtship rituals, and the implementation of an urban wildlife project at Barr Lake State Park northeast of Denver, which features an interpretive nature center.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT IN COLORADO

Laurens R. Halsey
6422 Bluebird Ave.
Longmont, CO 80501

On 28 July 1985 Pat and Wade Leitner, Jack Reddall, and I observed an Olivaceous Cormorant at Little Jumbo Reservoir between Jumbo Reservoir and Red Lion State Wildlife Area east of Crook in Sedgewick County, Colorado. There have been four previous records of Olivaceous Cormorants for Colorado. The first is a specimen taken fourteen miles north of Denver at Smith Lake on 15 October 1899. The second record, described by Robert Andrews, was at Barr Lake State Park in Adams County on 15 June 1978. The next two records occurred at the same location as our present observation. Peter Gent and others, on a post CFO convention field trip identified an adult on 28 June 1981. Paul Lehman found an adult 1 July 1983. Our record, if accepted by the CFO Records Committee, will be the fifth official state record.

The Olivaceous Cormorant we observed was in post-breeding plumage. The diagnostic fieldmark used was the white border on the reddish triangular gular patch. When compared directly to a Double-crested Cormorant, the slimmer neck and body and the long tail were very noticeable. The bronze tinge to the wings and back could also be seen. In flight, with Double-crested Cormorants, the Olivaceous Cormorant was noticeably smaller, overall slimmer, and longer tailed.

The bird apparently remained in the area of Jumbo Reservoir for the rest of the summer, for it was seen by several other observers at least through August.

Literature Cited

- Chase, Charles A. III. 1981. Colorado Field Ornithologist Records Committee Report 1977-1980, part 2. C.F.O. Journal Vol. 15:2. Denver, CO.
- Chase, Charles A. III. 1983. Colorado Field Ornithologist Records Committee Report 1980-81. C.F.O. Journal 16:3. Denver, CO.
- Gent, Peter. 1983. The C.F.O. Records Committee Report for 1983. C.F.O. Journal 19:1-2. Denver, CO.
- Bailey, Alfred M. and Niedrach, Robert. 1965. Birds of Colorado, Vol. 1. Denver Museum of Natural History. Denver, CO.

B O O K R E V I E W

THE WESTERN BIRD WATCHER

An Introduction to Birding in the American West

by

Kevin J. Zimmer

Prentice-Hall. 1985. 272pp. \$10.95. Paperbound. \$21.95
Hardbound

True to his word (or subtitle), Kevin Zimmer does an excellent job of introducing us to birding in the American West. However, he doesn't stop there. Instead he goes far beyond a mere introduction and gives us an in-depth look at many of the western species and the latest techniques in birding. Packed with excellent information, this book should appeal to birders of all experience levels.

The book contains six chapters. The first chapter, "Birding the West," gives a brief overview of the more important biotic communities and habitats of the West. These include the lower Rio Grande Valley, the Gulf Coast, the grasslands, the alpine tundra, the conifer forest (Yosemite, the redwoods and the sub-alpine forest), the Pacific Coast, the desert, the southwestern mountains (the Chiricahuas and the Chisos), and the California chaparral. Reading this chapter, it's easy to reminisce about places birded, and to dream of places yet to bird.

Chapter 2, "Techniques of Birdfinding," explains how to find birds. In addition to discussing the more straightforward techniques of finding birds, it also gives us a conceptual framework for understanding bird distribution, movements, and habitat se-

lection. Included are sections on habitat recognition, time of day, time of year, tapping the hotline, finding pelagic birds, calling birds in, and ethics. This chapter has lots of great advice, such as how to avoid being lynched by your fellow passengers if you get seasick on a pelagic trip: "do not use the restroom." The phenomenon of recurring vagrants is also discussed and several examples are given. Finally, in the section on ethics, we are asked to show a little consideration, not only for others, but especially for the birds we are watching.

Chapter 3, "Finding the Western Specialties," discussed where to look for more than 230 species. Want to see a Spruce Grouse? Zimmer suggests four locations in Washington, two in Idaho, two in Montana, and two in Minnesota. This is an excellent starting point for locating some of those more elusive birds not yet on your life-list.

Chapter 4, "Techniques of Identifying Birds," contains sections on form and structure, color and plumage patterns, vocalizations, behavior, gestalt, the importance of preparation, and psychological influences. Gestalt (or jizz as the British call it) is the general impression one gets when seeing a bird. This impression comes from a number of factors including size, shape, and movements and represents an overall feel for the bird. This can be quite important when dealing with the very difficult to identify families such as hawks, shorebirds, jaegers, and gulls. Though requiring a lot of experience with each particular species, this technique is a very valuable one and should be practiced constantly. As the author points out:

"For the true student of bird identification, every sighting should be a challenge to the senses. When this philosophy is assumed, no field trip is a waste of time no matter how dismal the day's list."

The fourth chapter continues with a discussion of the importance of preparation prior to entering the field. Key identification characters for each group of birds are discussed and the difficulty of identification (straightforward, subtle, or difficult) is indicated. This chapter ends with a section of "psychological influences" in which we are cautioned against mistaken identification in the quest for the rare species. One interesting hint from this section is a method for determining whether Cave Swallows or Cliff Swallows are nesting under a culvert: Cave Swallow nests are open cups whereas Cliff Swallows have closed nests with small entrances.

Even highly experienced birders will benefit from Chapter 5, "Difficult Identifications: Beyond the Field Guides." Here Zimmer has collected together much of the recent information on many of the harder ID problems. To this he has added much of his own information, gleaned from leading many field trips and seeing others struggle with these problems. In addition to covering most of the recognized ID problems, he also points out additional areas of confusion such as fall plumage Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos. While lack of space has prevented a complete treatment of all ID problems, he often gives additional references for further study. One would have had to remain current with at least eight ornithological publications over the past few years to have accumulated all the information in this chapter.

In the final chapter, "Keeping Field Notes," Zimmer urges us to document our field observations. He notes that we often underestimate the importance of our observations. The system he uses is a modified version of the one developed by Joseph Grinnell, the founder of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley. This system employs the use of a "Journal" and a "Species Account." Both are explained in detail and examples are given.

This book was very well prepared. I found only one typo, the inclusion of the term "Pterodroma" on page 137. Excellent art illustrations by Janet Rucci, Mimi Hoppe Wolf and Dale A. Zimmerman supplement the text.

Kevin Zimmer is a clear, concise author who has managed to convey an enormous amount of information in a very understandable manner. Although he excluded himself from the bibliography, he has written many articles on bird finding and identification and is author of the "Lane" guide to North Dakota.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to all birders. As Zimmer points out, we must be prepared when entering the field. The Western Bird Watcher is certainly a valuable tool in achieving that goal.

David Blue
3145 Westcliff Dr. W.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Calendar of Events

Saturday and Sunday February 15 and 16, 1986: CFO Raptor Clinic. Contact Charles Chase at 370-6353 to register, cost \$7.50 for CFO members, \$10.00 for nonmembers, and \$14.00 for first time membership and the clinic.

Saturday February 15, 1986 6:00 p.m. CFO Board Meeting at Denver Museum of Natural History.

March 22 and 23, 1986: Field Trip to Monte Vista NWR for Whooping Cranes, Joint trip with the Glenwood Springs Audubon Society. Contact Laurens Halsey (530-1628) for information.

Saturday and Sunday April 26 and 27, 1986: Field Trip to Yuma and Baca Counties for Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens. Contact Laurens Harlsey at 530-1628 for more information.

May 17 and 18, 1986: Twenty-fourth Annual CFO Convention in Colorado Springs, more details later.

Memorial Day Weekend: Field Trip to Baca County.

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

August 23, 1986: CFO Shorebird Clinic, more details later.

*** SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL CFO MEMBERS ***

There will be a membership list published in the first issue of next year's C.F.O. Journal (Volume 20, Number 1, Spring 1986).

This list will also include telephone numbers. If you do not wish your name and address or telephone number to be published,

or if we do not have your present telephone number and you would like to supply it please contact David Blue (3145 Westcliff Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906, (303) 576-2475) by 15 March, 1986.

The NEBRASKA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT is entering its third summer of field work in 1986. Field workers are needed for virtually all sections of the state. Any birders who will be in the area and are willing to help, are urged to contact the project coordinator: Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Nebr. 68620.

1986 DUES ARE NOW DUE. Please check the date in the upper right corner of your mailing label. If it is "85" then this is your last Journal unless you renew.

U.S. Postal Service
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1A. TITLE OF PUBLICATION		1B. PUBLICATION NO.		2. DATE OF FILING							
C.F.O. JOURNAL		0	3	6	2	9	9	0	2	9/27/85	
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE		3A. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY				3B. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE					
Quarterly		2000				\$8.00					
4. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (<i>Street, City, County, State and ZIP Code</i>) (<i>Not printers</i>)											
3145 Westcliff Dr. W., Colorado Springs, CO 80906											
5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER (<i>Not printer</i>)											
Same											
6. FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (<i>This item MUST NOT be blank</i>)											
PUBLISHER (<i>Name and Complete Mailing Address</i>)											
Colorado Field Ornithologists											
3145 Westcliff Dr. W., Colorado Springs, CO 80906											
EDITOR (<i>Name and Complete Mailing Address</i>)											
Ann Hodgson, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216											
MANAGING EDITOR (<i>Name and Complete Mailing Address</i>)											
Same											
7. OWNER (<i>If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.</i>) (<i>Item must be completed.</i>)											
FULL NAME						COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS					
Colorado Field Ornithologists						3145 Westcliff Dr. W. Colorado Springs, CO 80906					
8. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (<i>If there are none, so state</i>)											
FULL NAME						COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS					
None											
9. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (<i>Section 423.12 DMM only</i>) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (<i>Check one</i>)											
<input type="checkbox"/> (1) HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS				<input type="checkbox"/> (2) HAS CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS				<i>(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)</i>			
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION				AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS				ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE			
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES (<i>Net Press Run</i>)				500				500			
B. PAID CIRCULATION				0				0			
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales											
2. Mail Subscription				270				272			
C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION (<i>Sum of 10B1 and 10B2</i>)				270				272			
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES				140				140			
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (<i>Sum of C and D</i>)				410				412			
F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED				90				88			
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing											
2. Return from News Agents				0				0			

**COLORADO
BIRD DISTRIBUTION
LATILONG STUDY**



2nd EDITION
COMPLETELY REVISED

Order from:

Fran Enright
Colorado Field Ornithologists
83 Long View
Evergreen, CO 80439

Make checks payable to C.F.O.
Price: \$4.00 for C.F.O. members
\$5.00 for non-members