

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



Joseph C. Rigli-
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Cover Illustration: Pine Siskin, pen and ink by Joseph C. Rigli.

SEASONAL REPORT -- SPRING 1985

Doug and Judy Ward
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According to most reporters, the spring migration of 1985 was lack-luster. Many indicated no significant concentrations of shorebirds, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers or sparrows. Several observers noted only small flocks (or none) on the plains of the more common species for our state, i.e., Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers. One reporter mentioned reduced numbers of Franklin's Gull (3 to 25 per flock), normally encountered in groups of thousands.

With the exception of a snow storm March 27-29 on the West Slope which grounded 345 Mountain Bluebirds near Delta and 4800 Sandhill Cranes at Sweitzer Lake (Delta Co.), the weather for the most part statewide was mild with few fronts; this may account for the sparse numbers. Most migrants apparently flew over our state and breeders went directly to their nesting grounds; for example, Yellow-rumped Warblers were singing May 4 in the Indian Peaks area (Boulder Co.). Ponds and reservoirs on both sides of the mountains were very full offering scarce resting places for shorebirds and a lack of rain made few intermittent wet spots available.

On a more positive plane, an owl survey conducted in the foothills and montane zone of western Boulder County was considered quite successful. The following data was collected: Great Horned Owl -- common, 3 nests; Pygmy Owl -- 20, 3 nests; Saw-whet Owl -- 20, 2 nests, Boreal Owl -- 1; Long-eared Owl -- 2, 1 nest.

Also of interest:

Accipiter count was higher than in past years in the Indian Peaks Area (Boulder Co.) including 7 Goshawk on May 4. The last Thayer's Gull of the season was seen on 4/13 at Union Reservoir (Weld Co.). The high count of Least Flycatcher was 16 on May 14-15 at Bonny Reservoir (Yuma Co.). On May 23 three Great-tailed Grackle were found near Grand Junction, a range expansion? Cassin's Finch and Red Crossbill remained on the plains until May 28 following a winter with record numbers. And the Durango spring count on May 11 listed 1471 Evening Grosbeak.

The remainder of this report is divided into three categories: Part I, changes in status for the Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong study; Part II, a table summarizing sightings for species of interest not considered extremely rare, in some cases indicating early arrivals and uncommon occurrences (on the more regularly-occurring species, the number of sightings reported to us is presented in the aggregate.); and Part III, a list of species considered extremely rare, found away from their normal range, or which warranted explanation or additional comments.

Part I -- Latilong changes (See Part III for pending changes.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. seen</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lat. No.</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>
Great Egret	1	5/15	23	A	Durango
Bonaparte's Gull	2	4/25	10	A	Eagle
Sage Sparrow	1	3/31	24	A	Monte Vista
Swamp Sparrow	1	4/6	15	A	Delta

Part II -- Species of interest

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Birds</u>	<u>Date/s</u>	<u>Location</u>
Common Loon	1	3/25	Delta Co., early
Western Grebe	1	3/13	Delta Co., early
Great Egret	1	4/25	Silt; uncommon West Slope
Cattle Egret	1	4/6	Weld Co., early
Little Blue Heron	1, 1	4/18, 5/18	Larimer Co., Weld Co.

Green-backed Heron	5	4/25-5/28	Eastern Colorado
Tundra Swan	5	3/2-10	Alamosa, West Slope
	5	3/23	Kiowa Co.
Gr. White-fronted Goose	7	3/6-3/23	Eastern Colorado
	1	3/6	Delta County
Ross' Goose	2	3/20	Arapahoe County
	30	3/24	Crook, Logan County
	5	3/26-4/6	Delta County
Osprey	1	3/21	Delta County, early
Broad-winged Hawk	7	4/20-5/15	Eastern Colorado
Snowy Plover	1	5/11	Sedgwick County
Whimbrel	14	5/11-5/20	Eastern Colorado
Dunlin	1	4/7	Delta County
	4	?	Weld County
Franklin's Gull	1	3/5	Jefferson County, early
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	5/31	Logan County
Black Swift	2	5/12	Colorado Springs
Chimney Swift	1	5/11	Evergreen
Great-crested Flycatcher	3	5/11-17	Eastern Colorado
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1	5/17 to 31	Aurora
	3	5/26	S.E. Colo.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	4/19	Pueblo, early
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	5/14-15	N.E. Colorado
Tennessee Warbler	15	4/29-5/18	Eastern Colorado
Nashville Warbler	1	4/29-30	Boulder
Northern Parula	5	4/20-5/21	N.E. Colorado
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5/17	N.E. Colorado
Magnolia Warbler	1	5/17	Weld County
Bl. throated Blue Warbler	3	5/11-5/19	N.E. Colorado
Townsend's Warbler	1	5/14	El Paso County
Blackburnian Warbler	1	5/23	Boulder County
Grace's Warbler	1	5/11	Durango
Palm Warbler	1, 1	5/4, 5/14	Weld Co., Bonny Res.

Part II (cont'd)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Birds</u>	<u>Date/s</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	5/22	El Paso County

Blackpoll	4	5/6-5/14	N.E. Colorado
Black-and-white Warbler	4	4/20-5/14	N.E. Colorado
Worm-eating Warbler	3	5/7-5/19	N.E. Colorado
Ovenbird	13	4/29-5/21	Eastern Colorado
Northern Waterthrush	15	5/14-5/18	Eastern Colorado
Summer Tanager	1, 1	5/10, 5/11	Weld County, Yuma County
	4	5/31	Boulder
Northern Cardinal	1	3/31	Boulder
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	5/?	Cripple Creek, 9,000 ft.
White-winged Crossbill	1, 1	3/30, 5/26	Ft. Morgan, Boulder
Common Redpoll	15	3/2-4/6	N.E. Colorado

Part III -- rare or unusual

Little Blue Heron--5/30 (1) Fruita, Mesa Co. (BT). Rare West Slope occurrence. First spring record for area?

Green-backed Heron--5/20 (1) Eagle (JM). Uncommon West Slope.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron--4/21 on. Again this unusual Colo. species returned to the rookery at City Park, Denver.

*Glossy Ibis--5/6 (1 ad., alternate plumage) LaSalle, Weld Co. (JC). This is an exciting find. Unfortunately, even if the submitted report is accepted by the Records Committee, this species cannot be added to the state list as it was seen by only one observer and no photos were obtained.

Eurasian Wigeon--4/14 (1 ma.) Barr Lake, Adams Co. (DFO); 4/18 (1 ma.) LaSalle, Weld Co. (JC). This species has been occurring with increased regularity on both coasts in recent years. For this reason we can hope to find more passing through our state.

*King Rail--5/12-5/31 (1 ad.) Latham Res., Weld Co. (JC, m.ob.) Second state record for this species. Seen and heard by many observers during its lengthy stay.

Piping Plover--4/27 (2) Red Lion SWA, Logan Co. (JR, WL); 4/27 (3) Ramah Res., El Paso Co. (GM, EW). It's encouraging to see this many reports on this drastically declining species.

Common Tern--5/29 on (1) Hart's Basin, Delta Co. (MJ). Rare on West Slope.

Boreal Owl--3/17 (2 heard) Wolf Creek Pass, Mineral Co. (JRa).
Latilong change, A-#24. This is possibly the southernmost
location for this species, only 35 miles north of New Mexico.
Black-chinned Hummingbird--5/12 (1 ma.) Waterton Canyon,
Jefferson Co. (DD, RC). For this location, a rare sighting.
Magnificent Hummingbird--5/26 (1 fe) near Durango (GC); 5/29
(1) Burland Ranchettes, Park Co. "This male is back for the
third year." (DM)

Part III (cont'd)

Gray Flycatcher--5/18 (1) Boulder Co. (CB). This report was
taken from the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory; therefore,
we had no written details available. This empidonax is rare
for this northeastern location. Another record for Boulder
was noted in the 1980 spring report.
*Black Phoebe--5/20 (1) near Ridgway, Ouray Co. (JG, MJ). 5th
state record and new to Latilong 16.
Vermilion Flycatcher--4/27 (1 ma.) Ramah Res., El Paso Co. (GM).
Second El Paso Co. record.
*Dusky-capped Flycatcher--5/4 (3) Montezuma Co. (JG). This
Myiarchus poses extreme identification problems. Details
have been submitted to the Records Committee and acceptance
for a possible state record is pending. Seen by many obser-
vers.
Yellow-throated Vireo--4/20 (1) Chatfield State Park, Jefferson
Co. (JJ). Rare migrant for eastern Colorado.
Blue-winged Warbler--4/28 (1) Colo. Springs, El Paso Co. (EW)
Golden-winged Warbler--5/11, 12 (1 fe.) Bonny Res., Yuma Co.
(VZ). Both of these are unusual enough to be mentioned in this
section.
Prothonotary Warbler--5/11 (1) Boulder. This sighting was ex-
tracted from the Boulder Co. Wildlife Inventory; therefore, we
had no written details available.
Kentucky Warbler--4/19-23 (1 ma.) Boulder (LH), early; 5/27-29
(1 ma.) Bear Creek Nature Center, El Paso Co. (m.ob.)
Hepatic Tanager--several observations from isolated breeding
(?) colonies on private property in southern Colorado.

Black-throated Sparrow--4/22 (1) Cherry Creek Recreation Area, Arapahoe Co. (JR). Rare for eastern Colorado away from Baculite Mesa in Pueblo Co.

*Pending acceptance by the CFO Records Committee.

Contributors (individual reporters and compilers) and Cited Observers:

C. Blake (CB), D. Blue (DB), Boulder Audubon Soc. (BAS), W. Brockner (WB) J. Cairo (JC), R. Carter (RC), G. Childress (GC), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), D. Dominick (DD), Durango Bird Club (DBC), M. Ewing (ME), M. Figgs (MF), E. Fox (EF), J. Guadagno (JG), D. Hallock (DH) L. Halsey (LH), M. Janos (MJ), J. Justice (JJ), H. Kingery (HK), P. Lehman (PL), W. Leitner (WL), M. Locke (ML), T. Marsh (TM), D. Martin (DM), J. Merchant (JM), E. Merritt (EM), G. Miller (GM), J. Rawinski (JRa), J. Reddall (JR), J. Rigli (JRi), M. Snyder (MS), B. Tignor (BT), D. & J. Ward (DJW), J. & R. Watts (JRW), E. Wills (EW), R. Winn (RW) and V. Zerbi (VZ).

LITANY OF A MONK PARAKEET

Urling and Hugh Kingery
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This paper memorializes the presence of a Monk Parakeet in the Congress Park neighborhood of east Denver for a period of over two years. Since the origin of the bird is and shall remain unknown, it probably does not merit a place on the Colorado list of birds; however we felt that its presence needed documentation.

We first observed the bird 23 June 1983 in Congress Park where we saw it regularly to 15 September. It first came to our feeder on 20 September 1983. We saw the bird flying southwesterly over the Botanic Gardens 25 November 1983, and occasionally elsewhere in the neighborhood.

It survived our bitter 1983 winter weather. It appeared regularly at our feeder 20 September to 27 November 1983, but appeared only once in December 1983, on Christmas Eve, temperature -16 degrees F (Allan Lavery). It next appeared in our yard 28 February 1984, and it did not return until 21 April. At this point, it had started the nest building described below. It again began to use our feeder regularly from that date through 28 July, then once in August, again regularly 17 September through 21 December. We did not see it then until 5 April, 1985, when it again began to patronize our feeders sporadically. We last observed it 5 May 1985.

It fed at a hanging cylindrical feeder, filled with a mixture of millet and sunflower seeds. About the size of a kestrel, the bird perched with one foot on the lowest rung and one foot holding the next rung up, and picked from the lower port. We could not tell whether it ate millet, sunflower, or both. Frequently it appeared in mid-afternoon and, if the feeders were empty, it squawked (disappointment? notice to fill the feeders?).

Alan Wallace, who saw it occasionally, last noted it on 19 March, 1985, during a term of absence from our feeder. It appeared healthy on that date (his only 1985 observation), aggressive in fact. He saw it drive away starlings scratching in dead leaves in a gutter, and then settle down to feed in the gutter itself.

NEST: Urling observed the bird building a nest on 14 April 1984, in a maple tree in a backyard south of 11th Avenue between Clayton and Detroit Streets. On 20 April 1984 she found it building a second nest in the same tree. We found the bird at the nest tree through 9 June 1984.

The nest consisted of a large stick structure--perhaps a foot in diameter--placed in front of a hole in the trunk of the tree. The parakeet appeared to roost in the hole and use the sticks as an entrance.

We saw no evidence of a mate or young.

HISTORICAL: From our observations and conversations with neighbors, we think that the bird lived in the neighborhood for at least three years. We remember seeing a parrot briefly at a feeder in 1982, on the north side of Congress Park at Columbine Street. Neighbors confirm that they observed it before we noticed the bird.

Neighbors also confirm that the bird built a nest in 1983, and their reports suggest nest-building before that date.

Colorado has one other record of the Monk Parakeet. In the winter of 1981 in the Denver park where Florida Avenue crosses the South Platte River, a pair built a nest and remained for a month or two. One of these birds sported a band. (Lark Bunting 16:5, p. 47 [February 1981]).

DESCRIPTION: The bird had a green back and head, a gray forehead and cap. Greenish coloring on the back of the neck (with an indefinite demarcation from the gray cap) came around the eyes and lores. It had a white patch below the eye and behind the bill, and horn-colored bill. Below the head, the breast and belly were gray, with light horizontal barring. It did not have the buff-colored belly band pictured in Peterson's new Field Guide to the Birds. It had blue wing tips, and when it flew it showed blue in the tail. It probably was close to the size of a kestrel. Its tail was as long as the body, not including the head. The bird did not wear a band.

It had a raucous voice, and a couple of distinctive squawks which we cannot further describe. It sometimes called in flight, but most often we heard it call from a perch.

Generally, the parakeet behaved secretively. Although occasionally it perched on a treetop, such as a tall spruce tree across 9th Avenue from our house, we frequently heard it call when we could not see it. It behaved particularly secretively around the nest, and although it might move or squawk from inside the structure, it would not exit if it knew someone was watching.

At this writing in March 1986, we have not seen the parakeet for ten months, three times the length of its disappearance in early 1985. During its residence it roamed over an area of at least one square mile and dropped out of sight for three periods of over a month. However it did live wild, and apparently alone, for three years.

Our thanks to Alan Wallace for adding information on his observation, and to him and Ann Hodgson for reviewing this account and improving our grammar.

Literature Cited

Anon. 1981. Lark Bunting 16:5, p. 47.

BIRDING HANOVER ROAD: A SITE GUIDE

Richard L. Bunn
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Hanover Road, east of Interstate 25, is about the only place to find Sage and Curve-billed Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrow in El Paso county in summer. In any season you may see Loggerhead Shrike and White-necked Raven. To bird Hanover Road drive 20 miles south of Colorado Springs on Interstate 25. South of Fountain take exit 122 (Pikes Peak Meadows) and drive east, crossing the railroad tracks and continuing north to the intersection of Old Pueblo and Hanover Roads. This intersection is just north of the Fountain Creek bridge. The trip begins at this intersection and mileage between points is enclosed in parentheses.

The Ladder-backed Woodpecker has nested in recent years in the cottonwoods at this intersection. In summer Blue Grosbeak, Redheaded and Lewis' Woodpeckers are frequently found here. Continue east on Hanover Road. In winter check the double power poles (1.7) for raptors. The alfalfa fields in this area are irrigated in spring, attracting many water birds, especially White-faced Ibis and Ring-billed Gull. The small cone-shaped hills in this area are known as the Tepee Buttes and contain numerous fossil reef-forming clams. Check the tops of these mounds for raptors in winter. At Williams Creek (1.3) in summer you should find Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, and Northern Oriole. If you're lucky, you may find an Orchard Oriole. At the intersection of Hanover and Meridian Rds. (1.2) you may want to look for Mountain Plovers, which have nested here in recent years. Continue east 2.5 miles (0.5 miles east of Hammer Rd.) and look for a north-south cross-fence and a large round stock tank on each side of the road. From this point east for the next 0.5 mile is about the only place in El Paso County that you can find the Curve-billed Thrasher. This area, supporting the county's finest cholla cactus stand, is best mid-April through early July. Watch for Scaled Quail, Common

Nighthawk, Northern Mockingbird, Sage and Curve-billed Thrashers, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, Brown Towhee, Cassin's, Brewer's and Lark Sparrows, Lark Bunting and House Finch. This area is also frequented by Golden Eagle (winter), White-necked Raven, Ladder-backed Woodpecker (rare) and Prairie Rattlesnake. In migration (mid September) you may find Common Poorwills sitting on the roadside at night. This area almost always has a few pronghorn.

Return to I-25 via the same roads or continue east to look for Burrowing Owls. Turn left on Milne Rd. (4.6 miles east of the cross-fence) and right on Myers (1). Continue east to Myers and Demmler (2). The Burrowing Owls are in the field south and east of this intersection. In winter Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle are attracted to this area because of the prairie dogs. A second, larger Burrowing Owl colony can be reached by continuing east on Myers. As you drive east on Myers the soil becomes sandy where sage is the dominant shrub. This area is good for Cassin's Sparrow in summer. At Squirrel Creek Rd. (5), drive north to Squirrel Creek Place (2.2). The prairie dog and owl colony is behind and south of the old red-orange school house. This area is also good for Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle in winter. Return to Colorado Springs via the same roads, or continue north on Squirrel Creek Road to Ellicott Highway (Hwy 94), then east.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Elinor Wills, my long time birding buddy, for introducing me to this area many years ago.

BIRDING COLORADO SPRINGS STATE WILDLIFE AREA
A SITE GUIDE

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The Colorado Springs SWA, also known as Hanna Ranch, is one of the best birding areas in El Paso Co. Some 230 species of birds have been seen here since 1980. The property, about 3900 acres with public access, is leased and managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife from the City of Colorado Springs. To bird this area drive south of Colorado Springs some 17 miles to I-25. South of Fountain take either exit 125, 123, or 122. Each of these exits takes you to a different section of the ranch. East of I-25 are lowland riparian and agricultural habitats. The area west of I-25 is primarily cholla grassland.

EAST

Fountain Creek, running along the eastern edge of Hanna Ranch, and Little Fountain Creek, traversing west to east, support a continuous ribbon forest of plains cottonwood and other woody species such as crack, peachleaf, and sandbar willows. The agricultural habitat includes fields of corn, sunflower and alfalfa. Resident birds include American Kestrel, Great Horned Owl, Common Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch. In summer watch for Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lewis' Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo and Lazuli Buntings, and Lesser Goldfinch. The Lewis' Woodpecker is often seen on the power poles along the roadside as you drive to the parking area from exit 123. The shrubby areas are good for sparrows in winter. Most will be Tree and White-crowned (Gambel's), and Song Sparrows. If you look at all of them, sooner or later you will usually find a White-throated or Harris' Sparrows. Other winter birds are Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and Dark-eyed Junco (including white-winged).

In migration watch for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary and Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned, Townsend's (fall), MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Uncommon but regular migrants include Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee, Nashville, and Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. And if you're a real hotshot, this is usually a good place to test the credibility of your Empidonax identification skills.

To bird the east side take exit 125 or 123. The birds and habitats of the ranch accessed by these exits are similar. However, the northern section has a cattail marsh, and the southern section has a nature trail and Little Fountain Creek. The marsh can be reached by walking east along the service road from the parking area at exit 125. At the intersection, walk southeast through the woods, avoiding the private property. Sooner or later you will find yourself in or near the marsh. In migration you may kick out a Green-backed Heron.

To bird the nature trail take exit 123. The trail head is located just northeast of the parking area. The first half of the trail winds through a relatively open stand of cottonwoods, and is good for Red-headed or Lewis' Woodpeckers in spring and summer. The best birding is where the trail crosses Little Fountain Creek. Virtually all of Hanna's "best" birds were seen in this area. Spring birding is usually pretty good, especially when the weather is bad. But this area is usually wet and muddy. Rubber boots and rainsuit bottoms are a must if you want to stay dry. After birding this area you may want to check the chokecherry and American plum thickets for sparrows along the service road in the vicinity of where the road crosses the creek.

WEST

The west side of Hanna is arid, contrasting with the lush growth along Fountain Creek. The cholla cactus reaches the northern limit of its distribution in this area of El Paso county. In the summer of 1980 the northern most nest of the Curve-billed Thrasher was found here. But keep your shirt on, it

has not been seen here in over a year. If you bird this area in summer come early in the morning or in the late evening. There is no escape from the blazing sun and this place gets quite dreary a few hours after sunrise.

Scaled Quail and Brown Towhee are uncommon residents here. In summer watch for Rock Wren, Northern Mockingbird, and Loggerhead Shrike. The Green-tailed Towhee is most often seen in the early morning singing from the tops of small clumps of rabbit brush scattered through the area. Lark Buntings and Cassin's Sparrows are not hard to find. Watch for them skylarking from the tops of the cholla cactus. Winter birds include Northern Harrier, Common Raven, and Northern Shrike. Check the power poles along the interstate for Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks and Prairie Falcon. In migration you should have no problem finding Sage Thrasher, and Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, Clay-colored, Brewer's, Lincoln's, and White-crowned Sparrows. Your best shot for a Sage Sparrow is in late March or early April.

To bird the west side exit 125, 123, or 122. From the parking areas you are free to bird anyplace that is not posted as off limits. There is a small reservoir a mile or so west of the parking area at exit 123 that sometimes attracts a few ducks and shorebirds.

FAR EAST MARSH

To bird this area go east from Exit 122. The road swings north, crosses Fountain Creek, then continues to the intersection of Old Pueblo and Hanover Roads. From this intersection the south end of the marsh is 2.1 miles north on the west side of the road. Watch for the wide turnout on your left. The marsh continues north another .8 mile. Virginia Rail is resident here, and Sora in some years. A tape recording of their calls, or a lot of grunting, will usually get them going. Your best chance of seeing one is at the north end where a crossfence separates the marsh from wet, grazed ground. In winter watch for Common Snipe, Marsh Wren and Song Sparrow. In summer watch for Green-backed Heron (has nested), Black-crowned Nigh Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Great-tailed Grackles nested in the cattails in 1982, and were seen again in May 1983 and 1984.

BRUSH HOLLOW STATE WILDLIFE AREA:
A SITE GUIDE FOR BIRDERSRichard L. Bunn
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Colorado Springs, CO 80907

From Colorado Springs drive south some 30 miles on Hwy. 115 to Penrose. The road south from town drives through a variety of habitats and Fort Carson Military Reservation. In winters following a good juniper berry crop you should find Western and Mountain Bluebirds in open pinyon-juniper areas. Watch for them on telephone wires. In any season you may see Golden Eagle, Wild Turkey or Pinyon Jay. The turkeys are usually seen in fields adjacent oak habitat and ranch houses. Watch for the "Brush Hollow Reservoir" sign on you right (west) as you enter the city limits of Penrose. This will be 3rd Street (Fremont Co. 127). Turn right and drive 1.8 to Road E (Fremont Co. 42). From this intersection drive north to the wildlife area. The gravel road into the wildlife area passes through a grassy area. As the road rises, oneseed juniper becomes more common; watch for bluebirds in this area in winter.

To scan the reservoir for water birds, take the second right turn after you drive over the cattle guard. This cutoff will take you to a lookout point near a picnic shelter. (The first right takes you to the dam and the ducks are usually at the other end of the reservoir). A second lookout point, and perhaps the best, can be reached by driving north to the road's dead end (don't be confused by the many turnoffs, they all go to the same place). This little reservoir attracts a variety of waterbirds. A small group of Trumpeter Swans stood around on the ice here for about a week a couple of years ago. In migration watch for Clark's, Western, Eared or Horned Grebes, Canvasback, Cinnamon Teal, all three mergansers and many others. Bald Eagles have been seen in the cottonwoods at the north end of the reservoir in winter; Ospreys are usually seen in migration.

To bird the extreme north end of the reservoir, you will need to drive out of the wildlife area the way that you came in. Take the first right turn just as you pass the crossfence as you leave. It is 4.1 miles to the north end picnic area from here. After travelling north for some way, the road makes a broad U-turn (south). West of the picnic area are sandstone cliffs and shrubby hillsides which are good for Canyon and Rock Wrens in summer and Brown Towhee in any season. If you can't find any birds you might try your luck at finding fossils. The sandstone rocks here contain shark's teeth.

In migration, watch for Black-chinned Hummingbird, Gray Flycatcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler in the pinyon-juniper habitat surrounding the reservoir. These birds are not common but are probably regular migrants in this area. Pinyon Jays have nested here and can be expected at any season. The best way to find them is to listen for their calls, which carry for a considerable distance. Even jays calling across the reservoir are easily heard. Other permanent residents include Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit and Brown Towhee. In winter watch for accipters, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee and Cassin's Finch. The Bewick's Wren is usually not hard to find in summer. Listen for its Song Sparrow-like song coming from the junipers.

Birding below the dam can be good. The easiest way down is via the gravel path from the west end of the dam. Just remember, what goes down must come up. In migration watch for Say's Phoebe, Lincoln's Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee.

Another good birding area, but less accessible, can be reached by walking east of the dam to a canal. Follow the trail south to a bluff overlooking an open area of grass and rabbit-brush. The habitat below you is good for Sage Thrasher, towhees and sparrows in migration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are several openings for people willing to count birds on roadside survey routes in various parts of Colorado as part of the nationwide Cooperative Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). One coverage of 50-stop, 24 1/2-mile long routes is required sometime in June. In all there are 28 routes in Colorado, one in each Latilong block. In 1985, only 20 routes were covered. Volunteers should be willing to drive their own car, get out early, and recognize birds by both sight and sound. Highlights of 18 years of BBS counts will be discussed at the CFO meeting in Colorado Springs May 17. Anyone desiring more information should contact Ron Ryder, State Coordinator, at the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523 (phone 491-6547), or write Sam Droege, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 21 and 22, 1986 CFO Latilong Trip to Latilong 24. Meet at 6:00 am at the Ranger Station at the intersection of highways 112 and 160 in Del Norte. We will concentrate on finding the distribution of Bendire's Thrasher. Contact Peter Gent (h) 444-1750 for further information.

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

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