

Colorado Birds

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



Vol. 38, No. 1

January 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECOND ANNUAL HIGH PLAINS SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL.....2

CFO BOARD MINUTES.....4
Lisa Edwards

FLAMMULATED OWL USE OF DOUGLAS-FIR HABITAT
 IN GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO.....6
Ryan A. Grube, John R. Stanek, and Ken Gray

REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:
 2001 REPORTS, PART II14
Tony Leukering and Lawrence S. Semo

CORRIGENDA AND ADDITIONS TO “AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE REVIEW LIST”23
Lawrence S. Semo and Tony Leukering

CODES OF ETHICS ADOPTED BY CFO.....29

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE SUMMER 2003 REPORT (JUNE - JULY).....35
Lawrence S. Semo and Brandon K. Percival

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers.....Front cover
 This mated pair of flycatchers nested south of Lamar, Prowers County, for the second year in a row in 2003 (see *News from the Field* in this issue). *Larry Semo* digiscoped these birds on July 18th with his Nikon Coolpix 995 through a Leica APO scope.

Harlequin Duck.....18
Joey Kellner

SECOND ANNUAL HIGH PLAINS SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL

Lamar, Colorado, January 11, 2004 - Snow, Canada, and Ross's geese have begun to winter in Colorado, according to Jim Gammonly, a Colorado Division of Wildlife waterfowl expert. Gammonly will be the guest speaker Friday, February 27, 2004 at the opening session of the Second Annual High Plains Snow Goose Festival.

Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding Magazine* and Gary Graham, Executive Director for the Colorado Audubon Society, will make presentations to the participants on Saturday at the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn, the festival headquarters.

A sunrise tour to watch the snow geese wake and fly in waves to favorite feeding grounds will be conducted by members of the CDOW and the American Birding Association (ABA). State Wildlife Areas and farm fields will be bird watchers havens to see Sandhill Cranes, ducks, and shorebirds. Following the tour, the watchers will have breakfast at the Eads Community Center. A guided tour of wildlife areas will be held during sunset.

John Hopper and Granada High School students will host bird watchers and interested individuals of Camp Amache. During the past summer, an archeological survey took place at the site in an ongoing refinement and preservation of the site.

Bruce Schumacher, Rocky Mountain Region East Zone paleontologist with the USDA Forest Service will present a program regarding new dinosaur discoveries and research in the Picketwire Canyon lands. Ted Floyd will present during the luncheon held in the Empire Room of the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn.

The Willow Creek Nature Trail near Lamar Community College and sculpted by Lamar Boy Scouts will be explored. A natural riparian area, the trail attracts migrant songbirds and other wildlife.

A live Bird-of-Prey presentation, which includes hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons, begins at 2:30 P.M. at the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn, presented by the Raptor Center of Pueblo, Colorado. The naturalists will discuss birds-of-prey adaptations, predator-prey relationships, specific characteristic, natural histories, and the personal histories of the displayed birds of prey and their work to rehabilitate the injured birds.

Graham of Colorado Audubon Society has entitled his evening program “Soaring to Success”, Colorado Audubon’s plan for the future. Bird watching has become a big business with a \$1.3 billion expansion of the Colorado economy. Forty states have bird watching trails and 800 sites have been designated birding trails in Colorado.

Throughout the high plains festival there will be a Nature Art & Crafts Fair with artists and crafters displaying various works at the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn.

Potential tours on Sunday include a visit to the new Colorado Green Windfarm south of Lamar and a visit to the Camp Amache site.

An ongoing silent auction with many wonderful nature related items donated by corporations, local business, artists, photographers, and individuals will conclude during the Saturday evening hospitality hour.

People interested in participating in the festival should contact the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn for registrations fees, lodging, and special meals. Five dollars will be charged individuals in taking the sunrise and/or sunset tours.

More information about the High Plains Snow Goose Festival may be learned by contacting the Lamar Chamber of Commerce (719) 336-4379, calling the registration headquarters at the Best Western-Cow Palace Inn (800) 678-0344, or at the committee website: www.larmarchamber.com/goose.

CFO BOARD MINUTES

Lisa Edwards, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting was held November 9, 2003 at 11:00 A.M. Board members present were President Peter Gent, Vice President Norm Lewis, Secretary Lisa Edwards, Treasurer BB Hahn, Directors Sharon Dooley, Rachel Hopper, Bill Schmoker, and Mark Yaeger. Also present were Tony Leukering, Colorado Bird Records Committee Chair, and Doug Faulkner, *Colorado Birds* Editor. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Gent thanked everyone for attending and discussed possible locations of future board meetings that would be a central location for all board members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BB Hahn reported that CFO's current assets are \$31,050.19. The proposed budget for 2004 was amended and approved.

WEBSITE

- 1) Cobirds currently has 635 subscribers.
- 2) CFO website - The board discussed and approved \$1,000 to upgrade the website's architecture, graphic design, site navigation and templates.
- 3) CBRC website project - About 30 hours of work will be required to complete the project. Rachel expects the program to be up and running in early 2004.

AWARDS

Rich Levad reported via e-mail that he has not received any nominations.

FIELDTRIPS

Norm Erthal is working on an owl field trip, a bird and butterfly field trip, field trips with other Colorado organizations and a possible Ruffed Grouse field trip.

COLORADO BIRDS

The January issue will contain a Flammulated Owl article. In addition, the January issue will contain an insert of the CFO membership. The new format (type of paper, color photographs) continues to be well received.

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

The CBRC will move towards a format using the new web-based submission process of publishing records that have completed the review process as opposed to the current method of calendar year.

Tony will look into getting the state checklist updated due to new state records being accepted and the recent taxonomic order change by the American Ornithologists' Union.

PROJECT FUND

Cheryl Day reported via e-mail that no applications have been received.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

BB Hahn has asked to step down as the Treasurer until some time in the future when she has the proper amount of time to devote to the position. Mark Yaeger and Rich Levad's terms end at the 2004 convention.

2004 CONVENTION

Cheryl Day, via e-mail, and Tony Leukering reported on the plans for the 2004 Convention to be held at the Holiday Inn in Montrose.

- 1) Paul Lehman has agreed to be the banquet speaker. The presentation is expected to focus on weather in Colorado and its effect on migrating birds.
- 2) Experts will lead an evening field trip up to the Grand Mesa for Boreal Owl.
- 3) Peter Gent is organizing a "Stump the Chumps" with Bill Maynard.

There was discussion about providing trip leaders with more recognition for their time and efforts in leading field trips. The possibility of providing a way for young birders to attend the convention was also discussed.

MEMBERSHIP

As of November 6, 2003, CFO had 374 active members, including 58 outside of Colorado. Of these, 191 were due to expire in December 2003. Fifty-four of those have already renewed, Davis will send e-mail reminders to the remaining members that have not renewed for December.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Righter has asked for CFO's mailing list to send a pre-publication price notice for a book that he and others are publishing entitled "Birds of Western Colorado Plateau and Mesa Country." The board agreed to provide mailing labels, but not the mailing list.

January Board meeting - the next board meeting will be held at BB Hahn's house in Pueblo, Colorado. The date and time of the meeting will be January 17, 2004 at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

FLAMMULATED OWL USE OF DOUGLAS-FIR HABITAT IN GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

Ryan A. Grube, John R. Stanek, and Ken Gray
Dept. of Natural and Environmental Sciences
Western State College
Gunnison, CO 81231

Abstract--Flammulated Owls (*Otus flammeolus*) have historically inhabited mixed Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) in Colorado. Previous research suggests that within these mixed forests Flammulated Owls preferentially select territories in old-growth forest stands. Due to the preferential territory-selection, Flammulated Owls may have potential as an indicator species of overall forest health and may be used in management of fire suppression or mature tree harvesting. Our research focused on the micro-habitat selection of Flammulated Owls within mixed-coniferous forests. In known owl inhabited and uninhabited areas, we measured the forest characteristics of tree diameter, canopy density, canopy gap height, slope aspect and slope angle to determine micro-habitat selection by Flammulated Owls. Our data suggests that owls choose territories with large diameter Douglas-fir trees that have high and relatively dense canopies.

Introduction

The insectivorous Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) is a small, migratory, cavity-nesting, seasonal denizen of western montane forests (Linkhart 1998). This species migrates south to Central American wintering grounds when insect abundance decreases during fall sub-zero temperatures and returns again to their breeding grounds in the spring (McCallum 1994a). The breeding range of the Flammulated Owl extends from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast mountains and from southern British Columbia to Mexico (Phillips 1942, Reynolds and Linkhart 1992). In Colorado, they typically establish territories in old-growth forests dominated by Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) mixed with Pinyon Pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Gambel's Oak (*Quercus gambelii*) at lower elevations and Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) at higher elevations (Marshall 1939, McCallum 1994b). While the geographic range and landscape selection has been well documented at large spatial scales, there is a limited amount of research on micro-habitat selection. When establishing territories, Flammulated Owls must distinguish among available habitats within a landscape based on the qualities of micro-habitat contained within that landscape (Linkhart et al. 1998).

Flammulated Owl territory selection is related to the vegetation structure and prey availability of the forest micro-habitat (Linkhart 1992). Older Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir forests contain up to four times as many nocturnal moth species (Noctuidae) as other forest types, which are an important prey for Flammulated Owls during the breeding season (Marshall 1939, Reynolds and Linkhart 1992). Older forests contain an abundance of cavities required by the Flammulated Owl to nest (Marshall 1939). Mature, open stands also provide corridors from which to hunt without exposure to predation pressures. Historically, low-level ground fires have maintained these open old-growth forest characteristics, but decades of fire suppression have greatly changed the composition of the forest, which has reduced the amount of suitable habitat for the owls (Linkhart 1998). Older growth forests have also been harvested extensively over the past few decades further impacting the Flammulated Owl's habitat. The Flammulated Owl's reliance on old-growth micro-habitats can be used as an indicator for land managers for prescribing burns and timber harvesting (Linkhart 1998). In this study, we hypothesized that Flammulated Owls preferred stands of larger diameter Douglas-firs that exhibit a higher canopy gap and relatively denser canopy coverage. We also investigated whether Flammulated Owls have topographical preference for flatter, south-facing slopes.

Methods

We studied two areas, the first near Lake City along Colorado 149 in the Uncompahgre National Forest and the second near Rainbow Lake in the Gunnison National Forest. We determined owl territory sites at night using passive listening and playback of male Flammulated Owl calls. Sites were marked every mile after reaching possible habitat. Passive listening was initially used to locate song trees. If an owl was heard calling, then the tree from which it was calling was located, flagged, and a UTM coordinate recorded. If no owls were calling, then a playback tape was played for one minute followed by listening for one minute. We conducted only one-minute playbacks so that we would not entice an owl to move towards our playback call and away from its natural territory.

Sixteen sites were randomly selected from the marked sites - eight Douglas-fir sites with owls and eight sites without owls. Sites were marked at night and data measurements were obtained the following day. The study sites for areas with owls were centered on the approximated song tree and a 20-meter radius was established. Aluminum identification tags were placed on the north side of the tree for future reference. Study sites without owls were centered based on a randomly-selected point from a marked UTM coordinate. From this point our study site perimeter extended out by a radius of 20 meters.

At all 16 study sites, we recorded diameter at breast height (DBH), slope angle, canopy gap, slope aspect, and canopy density. Diameter at breast height was measured on all Douglas-fir trees in the designated study area. The slope angle and canopy gap were measured using a clinometer. The canopy gap was recorded 15 meters from the song tree. Slope aspect was recorded as a north, south, east, or west quadrant. Percentage of canopy cover was approximated by using a spherical densitometer in the four cardinal directions at ten meters from the song tree. The same measurements were taken in the non-owl study sites. We used one-tailed t-tests to statistically analyze our data.

Results

We examined site characteristics of occupied and unoccupied Douglas-fir habitats. Douglas-fir DBH was found to be significantly greater ($p < 0.001$) in occupied than unoccupied sites. Occupied sites had an average diameter of 165cm (± 10 cm) and unoccupied sites were only 123cm (± 7 cm; Fig. 1). The canopy gap was found to be significantly higher ($p < 0.002$) in occupied sites. Canopy gap of Douglas-firs within owl territories averaged 8 m (± 1) while unused sites averaged only 3.6 m (± 1 ; Fig. 2). We also found a significant difference ($p < 0.0001$) in percentage of canopy cover. Used sites exhibited an average of 80.5% (± 3) while unused sites exhibited a canopy cover of 54% (± 5 ; Fig. 3). However we found no difference ($p = 0.16$) in slope angle. Used sites were situated, on average, of 10% slopes (± 2) and unused sites on slopes of 15% (± 4 ; Fig. 4).

Fig. 1. Comparison of mean DBH of Douglas-firs in Flammulated Owl territories and unoccupied sites in Gunnison County, Colorado.

Fig. 2. Comparison of mean canopy gap of Douglas-fir forests within Flammulated Owl territories and unoccupied sites in Gunnison County, Colorado.

Fig. 3. Comparison of mean percentage of canopy cover of Douglas-fir forests within Flammulated Owl territories and unoccupied sites in Gunnison County, Colorado.

Fig. 4. Comparison of mean slope angle of sites containing and those without Flammulated Owls in Douglas-fir forests in Gunnison County, Colorado.

We also compared slope aspect of occupied and unoccupied sites (Fig. 5). Since most sites, both used and unused, were typically located on ridge tops, the aspect was predicted to be of nominal value. There were, however, trends for occupied sites situated on west-facing slopes with unoccupied sites primarily facing north.

Fig. 5. Comparison of the frequency distribution of slope aspect of sites occupied (black) by Flammulated Owls and sites not occupied (gray) in Gunnison County, Colorado.

Discussion

Flammulated Owl selection of territories containing Douglas-fir trees is preferentially based on distinct forest characteristics. Our study supports this hypothesis and our results show that there is a significant difference in several variables between used and unused habitats. We found that used territories contained Douglas-fir trees with significantly larger DBH than those found in unused habitats. We found that Flammulated Owls also prefer forests containing a higher canopy gap and more dense canopy coverage. We did not find a significant difference in slope angle or in slope aspect between our used and unused sites. In contrast to our identified owl habitats, our study found that unused forest habitats contained smaller diameter Douglas-fir trees with a lower and more open canopy cover. The trees of these sites were also more widely spaced than those of our used owl habitats and the overall forest was patchy with interspersed with open sagebrush areas. The unused forests were typically dominated by Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine and contained few aspen trees.

The six Rainbow Lake Flammulated Owl territories were dominated by mature aspens surrounding island stands of Douglas-fir. The gentle south-sloping mesa-top forest territories do not contain Ponderosa Pine. The open and park-like forest contains a high multi-layer canopy and a low, mixed understory. The two Lake City territories consisted of patchy lower hillside stands of mature Douglas-fir trees with mature aspens stands in the drainage below, while Ponderosa Pine dominated the hillside above. A meandering riparian meadow separated the Douglas-fir and aspen stands from one another. The Rainbow Lake and Lake City Flammulated Owl territories are characteristic mature forests of Gunnison County. Flammulated Owl preference and possible need for mature forests habitats has been described by several previous Flammulated Owl studies (McCallum 1988, McCallum 1994b, Linkhart 1998).

The vegetative composition of our Flammulated Owl territories differ somewhat from Reynolds and Linkhart's extensive twenty-year studies within

the Manitou Experimental Forest west of Colorado Springs, Colorado (Reynolds and Linkhart 1987, Linkhart et al. 1989, Reynolds and Linkhart 1992, Linkhart and Reynolds 1997). These intensively studied territories predominantly consist of old-growth Ponderosa Pine/Douglas-fir habitat as well as limited amounts of Douglas-fir/Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) habitat, mature Blue Spruce/Quaking Aspen habitat and pure mature aspen stands (Reynolds and Linkhart 1992, Linkhart and Reynolds 1997). McCallum's five-year study in the Zuni Mountains of western New Mexico revealed territory selection centered most frequently on Ponderosa Pine trees, but also on Pinyon Pine and cottonwoods (*Populus* spp.; McCallum and Gehlbach 1998). Also of note is the four-year Flammulated Owl nest box study conducted in a deciduous forest in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah (Marti 1997). Forty-one nest boxes attached primarily to aspen trees received significant nesting use from Flammulated Owls. The habitats of these three study areas in comparison to ours shows marked differences in the vegetation composition of occupied territories. In all probability, the common thread between these diverse territories lies in the spatial structure provided by the vegetation, understory and overstory. Studies have shown that these owls preferentially select for the special characteristics created by open old-growth forests (McCallum and Gehlbach 1988, Reynolds and Linkhart 1992).

Based on our results, we feel that there is a need for future research on canopy and understory composition within owl territories as well as the relationship between habitat quality and Flammulated Owl fitness.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Jessica Young of Western State College for her advice throughout the project. We also thank Rich Levad of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory for his inspiration in owl studies and Jim Berry of the Black Canyon Audubon Society for his suggestions of potential study sites.

Literature Cited

- Linkhart, B. D. and T. R. Reynolds. 1997. Territories of Flammulated Owls (*Otus flammeolus*): Is occupancy a measure of habitat quality? Pages 250-254. In *Biology and Conservation of Owls of the Northern Hemisphere: 2d International Symposium*. Ducas, J. R., D. H. Johnson, and H. Thomas, editors. Winnipeg, MB. General Technical Report NC-190. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department Agriculture Forest Service. North Central Research Station.
- Linkhart, B. D., Reynolds, T. R., and R. A. Ryder. 1998. Home Range and Habitat of Breeding Flammulated Owls in Colorado. *Wilson Bulletin*

110:342-351.

- Marshall, J. T. 1939. Territorial Behavior of the Flammulated Owl. *Condor* 41:71-77.
- Marti, C. D. 1997. Flammulated Owls (*Otus flammeolus*) breeding in deciduous forests. Pages 262-266. *In* Biology and Conservation of Owls of the Northern Hemisphere: 2d International Symposium. Ducan, J.R., D.H Johnson, and H. Thomas, editors. Winnipeg, MB. General Technical Report NC-190. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department Agriculture Forest Service. North Central Research Station.
- McCallum, D. A. 1994a. Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 93. A. Poole and F. Gill, editors. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- McCallum, D. A. 1994b. Review of technical knowledge: Flammulated Owls. *In* Flammulated, Boreal, and Great Gray Owls in the United States: A technical conservation assessment. G.D. Hayward and J. Verner, editors. Forest Service General Technical Report GTR-RM-253, Fort Collins, CO.
- McCallum, D. A., and Gehlbach, F. R. 1988. Nest-site preferences of Flammulated Owls in western New Mexico. *Condor* 90:653-661.
- Phillips, A. R. 1942. Notes on the migrations of the Elf and Flammulated Screech Owls. *Wilson Bulletin* 54:132-137.
- Reynolds, T. R. and B. D. Linkhart. 1987. The nesting biology of Flammulated Owls in Colorado. Pages 236-248. *In* Biology and conservation of northern forest owls. Proceedings of a symposium. Nero, R. W., R. J. Clarke, R. J. Knapton, and R. H. Hamre, editors. U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service General Technical Report RM-142.
- Reynolds, T. R. and B. D. Linkhart. 1992. Flammulated Owls in Ponderosa Pine: Evidence of preference for old growth. Pages 166-169. *In* Old-growth forests in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions: Proceedings of a workshop. Kaufman, M. R., W. H. Moir, and R. L. Basset, editors. U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report RM-213.



REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2001 REPORTS, PART II

Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603
cbrc@cfo-link.org

Lawrence S. Semo
9054 Dover St.
Westminster, CO 80021
lsemo@swca.com

Introduction

This report represents the second installment of the results of the circulation of rarity documentations submitted to the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) in 2001. As stated in the first installment (Leukering and Semo 2003), the CBRC received 297 reports from 83 contributors covering 200 occurrences of 107 species. The first installment reported on 116 of these occurrences; here we report on an additional 19 occurrences from the 2001 circulation. We also report on the circulation of five reports occurring in 2001 that the CBRC received late in 2002 and of one report held over from the 2000 circulation.

This CBRC report covers the evaluation of 57 documents from a mere 18 contributors of 25 occurrences of 16 reported species. The CBRC effected the circulation of these reports in 2002 and 2003, with the majority of reports originating in 2001, but with reports dating back to 1996. The documents reviewed included reports on one species previously unrecorded from the state, Black Skimmer, and the Committee accepted that record, bringing the state total to 473. Other reports detailed here include that of the state's fourth White Ibis, its seventh Long-tailed Jaeger, and its eighth Connecticut Warbler.

Due to the nature of this article, the percentage of accepted reports is 100%, a unique happenstance in the annals of the CBRC. Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Committee members voting on any or all of these reports were: Coen Dexter, Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Christopher L. Wood.

With only 18 observers contributing the 57 documents, contributors averaged over 3.2 documentations among the 25 occurrences treated here. The top five contributors in this batch were Larry Semo (13 documents), Tony Leukering (12), Christopher L. Wood (eight), and Rachel Hopper and Ric Olson (four each). Unfortunately, this means that four CBRC members account for 37 of the 57 documents. We here beg other observers to submit documentation to the Committee. We hope that the upcoming online CBRC submission website will encourage others to join in on the fun! We tip our hats to Rachel Hopper for being the only non-CBRC member to crack the top five this time, but hope she gets a run for her place in future reports.

Corrigenda

When dealing with large amounts of information, most of us find that we, unfortunately, make mistakes; the authors are no different. We here wish to correct a few such mistakes that crept into our last report (Leukering and Semo 2003) and for which we heartily apologize to those affected. We will have additional corrigenda in the next installment.

- In Part II, in the account of the report of the Anna's Hummingbird, we mistakenly suggested that the record, had it been accepted, would have provided the first state record. This is in error, as the CBRC has accepted seven records of the species.

- The Golden-crowned Sparrow in *Boulder* should have been 2001-131 (not 2001-024).

Committee News

Scott Hutchings continues work on the design and implementation of the Committee's new web-based submission and review system, a project whose progress continues apace. In a recent meeting, CFO web master Rachel Hopper, Leukering, and Semo provided input on the project and came away quite excited about the design. We look forward to implementing it in the near future and expect to be beta-testing it very soon.

In a recent vote of the entire CBRC (6-1), the Committee has decided to retroactively remove White-winged Dove from all review lists, effective 1 January 2002 (see Semo and Leukering in this issue). The list of reports that the CBRC is currently considering or about to review include potential first state records for Black Vulture, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Smith's Longspur.

Committee Functions

All reports received (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature

and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002), and for reports of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. While documentary materials can be submitted in hard copy to Tony Leukering (PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601), the CBRC would greatly appreciate submission via the new CBRC website, which is scheduled to be available before the end of 2004. ***Though handwritten and typed documentations are still greatly appreciated, submitting reports electronically via the new website will be much more useful and will make the Committee's job much easier.*** The members' term-expiration dates are printed on this journal's masthead.

Report format

The organization and style of this report follow that of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. This report consists of only one part, that of accepted records. The CBRC will furnish the majority of the remainder of 2001 reports and a large chunk of 2002 reports in its next installment

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1998) through the 44th supplement (Banks et al. 2003). An asterisk preceding a species' name indicates that the species is not currently on any CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002), but are unseasonable or locally very rare. As of 1 January 2002, the CBRC removed from the main review list, but **only** the main review list, those species preceded by the pound, or number, sign (#) (Semo et al. 2002; Semo and Leukering this issue); thus, the reports here are from a period when such species were on the main review list. The Committee also removed a few species from all review lists, effective 1 January 2002, and those species are here marked with two asterisks, thus the reports here are from a period when the species were on the main review list.

The numbers in parentheses after each species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado followed by the number of accepted records in the past ten years (1992 - 2001). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement on the main CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002). However, note that the number of accepted records will decline for some species as the CBRC tackles the backlog of determinations as to how many of the accepted records are simply recurrences in subsequent years of a known individual.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Each record presents as much of the following information as we

have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, second round (the number of “accepted” votes is on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are presented first if that person (those people) contributed documentation and are underlined; additional contributors’ initials follow in alphabetical order by name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined, but presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials and initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “v” (v). Thus, the parenthetical expression “(JD v, RA†, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 4-3, 5-2)” means: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and as the finder, is first in the list of those that submitted details with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so comes second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2001-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four “accepted” votes and three “not accepted” votes, the second-round vote was 5-2 in favor of accepting the report, and since this report was listed in Part I, the report was accepted at a CBRC meeting. The decision on most reports is completed on the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized, in keeping with the style established for the *News from the Field* column in this journal (e.g., Wood and Semo 2001). We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans.

Abbreviations used in this report are: **BR**=Bonny Reservoir, *Yuma*; **CR**=Chatfield Reservoir, *Jefferson/Douglas* (the specific county is mentioned in the text); **HR**=Horseshoe Reservoir, *Larimer*; **SL**=Standley Lake, *Jefferson*; **WR**=Windsor Reservoir, *Weld* (not to be confused with the Windsor Reservoir in *Larimer*).

Part I: RECORDS ACCEPTED

HARLEQUIN DUCK - *Histrionicus histrionicus* (4/1). A female along the Animas River in Durango, *La Plata*, 12 January - 20 March 2001 (MH, PG, RH, JK †, TL, RO †, BKP, LS †; 2001-1; 7-0), provided probably the most excitement of any bird in the state in 2001. Though other species

found in the state in 2001 were rarer (e.g., the first state records of both Black Skimmer and Costa's Hummingbird), unlike those rarer birds, the Harlequin put on an excellent show for large numbers of Colorado and out-of-state birders. As the previous state record of the species was 25 years earlier, and that bird was seen by only a couple very lucky birders, many birders were finally able to fill in that empty space in front of "Harlequin Duck" on their state checklists. An article about this bird appeared in the July 2001 issue of this journal (Hill 2001).

Colorado's first Harlequin Duck record in 25 years. Joey Kellner took this photo on 20 January 2001.

**BLACK SCOTER - *Melanitta nigra* (23/13). Many observers ogled a female-plumaged bird at SL 28-29 October 2001 (RH, TL, RO, LS †, DE; 2001-93;). Also present at the site on the second day were a Red-throated Loon and a Red-necked Grebe! Another female-plumaged bird visited HR on 8 December 2001 (TL, LS †, RH; 2001-114; 7-0).

RED-THROATED LOON - *Gavia stellata* (29/16). A juvenile was present on SL 28 October through 9 November 2001 (TL, RO, LS †, BG; 2001-92; 7-0).

#RED-NECKED GREBE - *Podiceps grisegena* (22/17). The CBRC accepted four reports of this species in 2001, two of which were detailed in Leukering and Semo (2003). The other two were of single birds at SL 10-23 December 2001 (LS †, NE; 2001-193; 7-0) and at Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*, 15 December 2001 (LS †; 2001-167; 7-0). The former bird was found on 9 December and the latter bird was present at PR for quite some time in December, but no other observers

submitted documentation.

REDDISH EGRET - *Egretta rufescens* (5/4). A subadult white-morph individual pranced around first John Martin Res., *Bent*, and then Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa* (DL, TL, CLW †, DN; 2001-77; 7-0). This report provides the state's first record of a white-morph Reddish Egret and one of few records in the interior of North America.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - *Nyctanassa violacea* (13/6). Observers saw a juvenile near the southwest corner of Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, on two dates, 10 and 23 August 2001 (TL, CLW †, NG; 2001-71; 7-0).

WHITE IBIS - *Eudocimus albus* (4/3). A few observers were fortunate to see an adult on JJ Road 1.5 miles east of 17 Road, *Bent*, on 2 June 2001 (DN, MCL; 2001-54; 1-6, 7-0). The single documentation that circulated in the first round was very brief, only providing information that the bird was white with a red bill. As this is a description of virtually all albino (*sensu stricto*) birds, the Committee was not convinced by the description. Prior to the second round, the CBRC received a second documentation on the individual, so the report was circulated in the second round. The second report provided most of the descriptive details for which the Committee members were looking. The site where the bird was found is that known by some as the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Spot (the location of the occurrence of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in 2000); the site hosted a Tricolored Heron earlier in 2001. It is obviously quite the birding spot!

POMARINE JAEGER - *Stercorarius pomarinus* (13/4). Two dark-morph juveniles were present at BR on 8 October 2000 (TL, LS; 2001-155; 7-0). An adult light morph was well documented from CR, *Jefferson*, 12 and 13 October 2000 (LS †; 2000-45; 7-0); this bird was also seen in the *Douglas* part of the reservoir. Another bird, seemingly in Alternate I plumage, was at WR in the period 1-2 November 2001 (JF, TL, CLW †, NK; 2001-171; 7-0).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER - *Stercorarius longicaudus* (7/6). A sub-adult in alternate plumage graced SL 25-27 August 2001 (LS †, PG, RH, AS †, CLW †; 2001-143; 7-0). Though very adult-like, the bird had a small number of retained juvenal feathers among its underwing coverts. A picture of this individual was published on page 113 of the April 2002 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

LAUGHING GULL - *Larus philadelphia* (27/15). The CBRC accepted three reports of this species from occurrences in 2001. The first of these was an adult at Neesopah Res., *Kiowa*, present for much of the summer, but documented only on 22 July (LS, DN; 2001-175; 7-0). An adult still mostly in alternate plumage at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 3

August provided the second record of the year (CLW; 2002-4; 7-0). The list is rounded out by a bird in Basic I plumage that the Kingerys found on 30 November while counting waterbirds along the South Platte River in *Adams* as part of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Early-winter Waterbird Count (HK, LS †, UK; 2001-120; 7-0). Semo found and videotaped the bird the next day at SL, the site at which most of the gulls that forage in the *Adams* stretch of the South Platte spend their nights (L. Semo pers. obs., T. Leukering pers. obs.).

MEW GULL - *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* (23/16). A basic-plumaged adult with a limp spent the period 5-10 March 2001 at Jim Hamm Park, *Boulder* (KS, JV; 2001-144; 6-1). This bird is undoubtedly the same Mew Gull with a limp that was present at this site the previous spring (though in Basic II plumage) and which is, at this writing, present at this site in December 2003.

#LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - *Larus fuscus graellsii* (44/41). The year 2001 was the final year in which this species was a member of the main Colorado review list. Of the many Lesser Black-backs found in that year, the CBRC received documentation on only four. Leukering and Semo (2003) treated one record and we here treat the other three. A bird in Basic IV loafed on WR 2 November - 8 December 2001 (TL, JF; 2001-115; 7-0), two adults (two separate record numbers) were at HR on 8 December 2001 (TL, LS; 2001-97; 7-0 and LS †, TL; 2001-116; 7-0), and, finally, an adult was at Thomas Res., *Boulder*, 1 December 2001 (BS †; 2001-126; 7-0) that stayed in the area through, at least, the *Boulder* CBC on 22 December, but the CBRC did not receive documentation for that date.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - *Rissa tridactyla* (24/12). A juvenile spent much of the spring of 2001 at CR, *Jefferson & Douglas* (LS †, CLW †, JK; 2002-1; 7-0). This bird's specific dates of occurrence span the period 11 April - 16 May and documentation dates span 24 April - 14 May. As detailed in Wood and Semo (2001), the bird was almost wholly in juvenal plumage, even at this apparently late time. This individual provides the first record in Colorado between 10 March and 27 October; all other records have been of individuals in late fall, winter, and very early spring. There is a report of an individual (age?) at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, in late May 1988, but details of that occurrence never reached the CBRC for review and archival purposes. It is not too late to submit such details!

BLACK SKIMMER - *Rhynchops niger* (1/1). One of the unlikeliest birds ever found in Colorado, an adult Black Skimmer at Jett Res., *Kiowa*, 19-21 July 2001 provided a first record for Colorado (DF sketch, PG, RO v, CLW †, DN; 2001-64; 7-0). Jett Res. is the easternmost of three pools

that, at very high water, form one large, upside-down L-shaped reservoir in the northwest part of the "Indian Reservoirs" south of Eads (the southernmost of the three is known as Neesopah Res.). Hopefully, someone will publish an article in this journal on this event; a picture of this individual graced the cover of the January 2002 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

#WORM-EATING WARBLER - *Helmitheros vermivora* (29/19). One visited the Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*, 22 April 2001 (TL, LS †, BKP; 2001-123; 7-0).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - *Oporornis agilis* (8/5). One, seen briefly and heard calling, was at the Last Chance Rest Area, *Washington*, 27 May 2001 (CLW; 2002-3; 6-1).

Reporters and Cited Observers

Marie Cici-Lee, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner, Joe Fontaine, Peter Gent, Brian Gibbons, Nancy Gobris, Mona Hill, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Urling Kingery, Nick Komar, Dave Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Brandon K. Percival, Bill Schmoker, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, Andrew Spencer, John Vanderpoel, Christopher L. Wood.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Banks, R. C., C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, and D. F. Stotz. 2003. Forty-fourth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. *Auk*. 120:923-931.

Hill, M. 2001. A Brief History of Harlequin Ducks in Colorado. *J. Colo. Field Ornith.* 35:137-141.

Leukering, T. and L. Semo. 2003. Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee: 2001 records, part I. *Colorado Birds* 37:138-155.

Semo, L. S., T. Leukering, and J. E. Stewart. 2002. Amendments to the State Review List. *J. Colo. Field Ornith.* 36:131-143.

Wood, C. L. and L. S. Semo. 2001. News from the Field: Spring 2001 Report (March - May). *J. Colo. Field Ornith.* 35:183-202.

**CORRIGENDA AND ADDITIONS TO
“AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE REVIEW LIST”**

Lawrence S. Semo
Secretary, CBRC
9054 Dover Street
Westminster, CO 80021

Tony Leukering
Chair, CBRC
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603

Semo et al. (2002) presented changes incorporated by the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC) in the official list of review species. As in many undertakings involving large amounts of information, a few errors crept into our report and we also noted a few omissions. Additionally, the CBRC has made a small number of new changes in the state review list. Thus, we provide this listing of corrigenda and additions. In this list, we refer often to the six codes on the review list, as delineated in Semo et al. (2002), a synopsis of which is included here in Appendix A.

Brant - The CBRC would appreciate documentation for all Brant, even for those that were not positively identified to subspecies. Though the A.O.U. (1998) currently considers all Brant taxa as comprising one species, many authorities and other ornithological bodies consider some or all taxa to be separate valid species. There is sufficient evidence to suggest that this latter treatment may be more parsimonious and the A.O.U. may follow this track in the future. Additionally, there is currently a lot of buzz in the birding and taxonomic worlds about an as-yet undescribed taxon of Brant that breeds in the Canadian arctic and could readily occur in Colorado (Buckley and Mitra 2002). Thus, it behooves us to scrutinize all Brants in the state and attempt to determine the taxon involved.

Tundra Swan - We take this opportunity to remind Colorado birders that the CBRC would appreciate receiving documentation on any and all Tundra Swans reported in the state. Recent experience here suggests that neither of the native North American swans is considerably more likely to occur in the state than the other and there are severe identification issues.

Little Blue Heron - This species is not on the main state review list (Code A). Juveniles (birds in typical, all-white plumage) should be documented from anywhere in the state (due to the extreme similarity in plumage between this species and Snowy Egret). Otherwise, it is a member of Code B.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - One of the two accepted Colorado records occurred after the period considered in our Table 1, thus the number in that table in the first column should be "1."

Short-billed Dowitcher - This species is not on the main state review list (Code A). Adults and/or those in basic plumage should be documented from anywhere in the state at any season. Otherwise, Short-billed Dowitcher is a member of Code B.

jaegers - See Leukering (2003) for a discussion of the large-scale changes in the numbers of accepted records of the three species of jaegers. Additionally, the CBRC would appreciate documentation for all jaegers, even for those that were not positively identified to species.

Eurasian Collared-Dove - We inadvertently omitted this species from Semo et al. (2002). The species is not in Code A. The CBRC requests documentation of all first-county reports (even if those are from years in the past) of Eurasian Collared-Dove. To date, the Committee has not received documentation from the following counties: Alamosa, Arapahoe, Archuleta, Broomfield, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Conejos, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Denver, Dolores, Douglas, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, La Plata, Las Animas, Lake, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, Summit, Teller, and Washington.

White-winged Dove - After the massive incursion by the species into the state in spring and summer 2002, the CBRC has removed the species from all review lists. However, the Committee still requests documentation of any and all pre-2002 reports that have not already been submitted.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - As for Tundra Swan, we wish to remind Colorado birders that the CBRC would appreciate receiving documentation on any and all Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported in the state. We realize that the state is currently hosting a very large number of this species, but it is still undetermined if this is an incredibly good year or if birders have started looking for individuals of a species that has usually gone undetected due to its secretive nature.

Palm Warbler - This species is not a member of Code A of the review list, but is a member of Code B. However, the CBRC would appreciate receiving documentation of all reports in the state of the eastern race, "Yellow Palm Warbler." "Western" Palm Warbler belongs in Code B.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Buckley, P. A. and S. S. Mitra. 2002. Three geese resembling "Gray-bellied Brant"/"Lawrence's Brant" from Long Island, New York. *North American Birds* 56:502-507.
- Leukering, T. 2003. Jaegers in Colorado: A Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee. *Colorado Birds* 37:73-91.
- Semo, L. S., T. Leukering, and J. E. Stewart. 2002. Amendments to the State Review List. *J. Colo. Field Ornith.* 36:131-143.

Appendix A.

Code A – Code A species are those on the main statewide review list. All observations within the state should be documented (see Table 1).

Code B – The Code B area is Colorado west of the Front Range 6000-foot elevation contour, as shaded on the following map.

Code B species - Pacific Loon, Broad-winged Hawk, American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, "Western" Palm Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Cassin's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Lapland Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Northern Cardinal, Dickcissel, Rusty Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Code C – The Code C area is Colorado west of Logan, Morgan, Washington, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Bent, and Baca counties, as shaded on the following map.

Code C species - Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo (*including* Morgan County), "Eastern" White-breasted Nuthatch (*including* Morgan County), Field Sparrow (*excluding* Otero County), and Baltimore Oriole.

Code D – The Code D area is species-specific. For each species, occurrences outside of the known range should be documented. "Known range" is

currently defined by Andrews and Righter (1992), any additions provided by the Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998), and recently published records of significant changes in our knowledge of those species' ranges within the state.

Code D species - Mississippi Kite, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove (locations/towns with no accepted records only), Western Screech-Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Chihuahuan Raven (*excluding* Fremont, Pueblo, and El Paso counties), Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, and Scott's Oriole.

Code E – The Code E area is Colorado east of the Front Range counties of Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Pueblo, and Las Animas, as shaded on the following map.

Code E species - Band-tailed Pigeon, Flammulated Owl, Black Swift, White-throated Swift, Williamson's Sapsucker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven (*excluding* Baca County and westernmost Weld County west of U.S. Highway 85), Pygmy Nuthatch, American Dipper, Western Bluebird, Sage Sparrow, "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow, all rosy-finches, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Code F – The Code F area is Colorado *except* Weld, Logan, Washington, Sedgwick, Phillips, and Yuma counties, as shaded on the following map.

Code F species - Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll (*excluding* Boulder and Larimer counties)

Special-Case Birds - The following species have ranges that do not encompass the entire state and also do not correspond to the coded regions above. Documentation areas are:

Mountain Plover - west of Continental Divide

Acorn Woodpecker - all areas of the state except for the known Durango sites

Black Phoebe - all areas except known breeding areas along the San Miguel River in Montezuma County and the St. Charles River in Pueblo County

Purple Martin - east of Continental Divide

Hepatic Tanager - outside of Las Animas County and known Ft. Carson site

“White-winged” Dark-eyed Junco - west of the Front Range counties of Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Park, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, and Las Animas

CODES OF ETHICS ADOPTED BY CFO

In 1998, the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors adopted two sets of ethics code already promulgated by two prominent groups in North America : the American Birding Association (ABA) and the Ornithological Council (OC) to guide the activities of CFO and its members. Both organizations generally conduct different activities, thus their codes of ethics cover very different realms. However, because CFO's activities, publications, funding grants, and members overlap both realms, the Board felt it best to adopt both sets of code. The ABA's code, targeted to birders, is reproduced here in its entirety. The OC's code, targeted to researchers, has been summarized by Jim Chace.

The CFO Board asks each member, and any non-member involved with CFO in any capacity, to read through these codes of ethics and abide by them with the spirit of thoughtfulness and conservation in which they were conceived.

ABA Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.
 - a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
 - b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
 - d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.
 - a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
 - b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public

areas, both at home and abroad.

- c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.
3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.
 - a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
 - b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
 - c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.
4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care. Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.
 - a) Respect the interest, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
 - b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities (amateur and professional trips and tours)
 - c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
 - d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.
 - e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.
 - f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).
 - g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interest. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Ornithological Council Code of Ethics

Part I

A. Overview

“Consistent with long standing interests in conservation, education, research, and the well-being of birds, the Ornithological Council endorses

the following guidelines and principles for scientists conducting research on wild birds.... Investigations often involve risk of injury or death to the experimental subject. Risks that threaten the health or existence of populations are far more serious. Except under extraordinary circumstances, experiments that threaten the stability or existence of populations are proscribed.”

“Humane treatment of wild vertebrates in field research is essential for ethical, scientific and legal reasons.”

B. Relationships among Concerned Organizations

“Most research on wild birds falls under the aegis of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Legal background for current practices involving laboratory animals in the United States stems from the Animal Welfare Act of 1970. Both the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior are signatories of the Interagency Research Animal Committees Principles for the Utilization of Vertebrate Animals used in Testing, Research, and Training.”

C. General Consideration (taken directly from OC’s Guidelines, except where noted)

1. Procedures with animals must avoid or minimize distress and pain to the animals, consistent with sound research design.
2. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals should be performed with appropriate sedation or analgesia.
3. It is unethical to allow an animal to suffer severe or chronic pain that cannot be relieved.
4. Methods of euthanasia will be consistent with recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association panel on euthanasia.
5. The living conditions of animals held in captivity at field sites should be appropriate to satisfy the standards of hygiene, nutrition, group composition and numbers, refuge provision, and protection from environmental stress necessary to maintain that species in a state of health and well-being.
6. Taxa chosen should be well-suited to answer the question(s) posed.
7. The investigator must have knowledge of all regulations pertaining to the animals under study, and must obtain all permits necessary for carrying out proposed study.
8. Individuals of threatened or endangered taxa should [not] be removed from the wild except in compliance with applicable regulations.
9. Investigators must be familiar with the study species and its response to disturbance.
10. Every effort should be made prior to any removal of animals to understand the populations status of the taxa studied, and the numbers of animals removed from the wild must be kept to a minimum. This statement should not be interpreted as discouraging study or collection of uncommon

species.

11. Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, procedures likely to affect the stability or existence of a population are proscribed.
12. Studies should use the fewest animals necessary to answer reliably the questions posed.
13. The usefulness of specimens should be maximized by preserving not only skins but also carcasses, skeletons, DNA samples, and specific tissues.
14. The principal investigator must ensure that all personnel associated with the project have been properly trained.

Part II

[Presented is a summary of the OC's Guidelines, paraphrased with a minimum amount of text, with the intention of retaining the original meaning. Emphasis is placed on conditions that authors for CFO or research funded by CFO would be most likely to encounter (i.e., laboratory research is not emphasized as much as field research conditions).]

I. Permits — All researchers must be aware of the regulations that protect wild birds and obtain the necessary permits for their work. Any possession, capture, handling, collecting, marking, transporting, or disturbing of native birds, their nests, or their eggs requires some kind of special licenses or permits. Nearly all bird species in North America are protected by a large variety of laws, including the salvage or possession of any portion of dead birds.

II. Investigator Impacts

“Ornithologists have an obligation to assess their research for potential negative effects on their study populations as well as on the environment in general, and to minimize such effects. Although research may further scientific knowledge, investigators should weigh any potential gain in knowledge against the consequences of disruption. In assessing the consequences of disruption, however, it should be borne in mind that, although short-term adverse effects may result from research activities, populations usually recover rapidly, and research often yields long-term positive effects for the affected populations.”

Two important types of observer-caused disturbance are addressed: disturbance that causes biases in the data collected, and disturbances that affect the status and well-being of the study subjects themselves. Such disturbances include: nest visitation, aircraft overflights, and approach to sensitive areas.

III. Collecting and Trapping — Ornithological research often involves the judicious collecting of birds in the field, and specimens are then deposited in museum collections. The collection of scientific specimens typically has no

lasting effect on avian populations. Humane scientific methods of trapping and shooting are those that kill the bird instantly but avoid injury to the body parts. Collecting should always be conducted so as to leave the habitat as undisturbed as possible. Systematists should search for suitable specimens in extant collections before conducting fieldwork.

IV. Marking — It is essential to the welfare of the birds and the integrity of the research that the marking procedure not adversely affect the behavior, physiology, or survival of individuals. For a marking procedure to be effective, it should meet as many of the following criteria as possible (Marion and Shamis, 1977, *Bird Banding* 48:42-61).

- a. The bird should experience no immediate or long-term hindrance or irritation.
- b. The marking should be quick and easy to apply.
- c. The marking code should be readily visible and distinguishable.
- d. The markings should persist on the bird until research objectives are fulfilled.
- e. The bird should suffer no adverse effects on its behavior, longevity, or social life.
- f. Careful records should be made of all aspects of the marking procedure. Specific guidelines for metal bands, colored plastic leg bands, dyes and UV markers, neck collars, nasal discs and saddles, wing markers, radio transmitters, and electronic tags are provided within the document.

V. Transport of Wild Birds — It is frequently necessary to transport birds, whether as part of an experimental protocol or to move research birds from capture sites to the laboratory or other holding facilities. Transport of all warm-blooded animals is covered by provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, and specific requirements are stated within.

VI. Housing and Captive Breeding — Maintaining birds in captivity is expensive, time consuming, and requires special expertise. The living conditions of birds should be appropriate for each species and contribute to their sound health and comfort. Housing, feeding, and non-veterinary care should be directed by a person trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained. Specific guidelines are outlined for quarantine and isolation, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and control of diseases, separation by species, daily care, caging, housing and maintenance, considerations for aquatic birds and raptors, record keeping, disposition of birds after experiments, variations on standard procedure, and zoonoses.

VII. Minor Manipulative Procedures

“The collection of tissue samples, experimental manipulations using injections and implants of hormones/drugs, playbacks of tape-recorded vocalizations, and presentation of decoys are fundamental tools for

ornithologists. Most if not all of these activities require permits from federal and/or state agencies.” Specifics on blood and tissue collection, collection of food samples, cloacal lavage, injections and insertion of implants, determination of egg viability, playback vocalizations, artificial eggs, and manipulation of plumage are discussed with detail in the text.

VIII. Major Manipulations — Techniques of avian anesthesia and surgery are developing rapidly, and new texts on the subject appear annually. Because the field is not static, OC’s Guidelines do not attempt to catalogue acceptable techniques, but rather establish a philosophy that will help all involved determine whether a given approach is acceptable. Specific discussions on restraint, anesthesia, surgery, laparotomy and other sexing techniques, and euthanasia are provided with OC’s Guidelines.



A BIT OF JOURNAL HISTORY

10 Years Ago in the Journal...

Dick Schottler recounted his finding of the state’s first record of Red-faced Warbler at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on May 3, 1993.

15 Years Ago in the Journal...

Thomas Nicholls, Leanne Egeland, and Frank Hawksworth published a paper on the role birds play in dispersing Lodgepole Pine Dwarf Mistletoe seeds.

20 Years Ago in the Journal...

Two short notes on two separate Brambling sightings during winter 1983, including photos of the Boulder bird, appeared in the spring issue.

30 Years Ago in the Journal...

Clait Braun and Richard Hopper reported on four apparent Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrids found in Colorado in winter 1974.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE SUMMER 2003 REPORT (JUNE - JULY)

Lawrence S. Semo
9054 Dover Street
Westminster, CO 80021
lsemo@swca.com

Brandon K. Percival
835 Harmony Road
Pueblo West, CO 81007
flammowl@juno.com

As this summary of bird observations from this past summer was written, it was snowing and blowing a gale. But the nasty weather was somewhat abated in the senior author's mind as I analyzed the submitted sightings and think back to singing birds, wide-gaped nestlings begging for food, and warmer temperatures. Autumn and spring attract most birders because of the sheer diversity of species, numbers of birds, and the lure of finding that exciting vagrant. Summer is generally thought of as being quite prosaic, with seemingly few species or observances of note. Nothing could be further from the truth, however. The breeding season is the most biologically significant period of the year for our feathered friends and this *News from the Field* chronicles those interesting observations from the summer season and highlights patterns of nesting distribution and success for many species. We encourage birders to study breeding bird populations and volunteer time by participating in Breeding Bird Surveys and other forms of avian data acquisition.

For most locations, Summer 2003 was somewhat of an encouragement over the heat and drought experienced in 2002. That is a general assessment across the state since some local areas still felt the intensity of the drought, especially the West Slope and eastern Arkansas Valley. All weather information for the state was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA 2003). Broad-scale conditions across the state did improve with June being ostensibly cold and wet. The mean temperature for the state that month was normal at 61 degrees, which is 6.3 degrees cooler than June 2002's record heat. Rainfall also was above normal with a mean of 1.91 inches across the state, compared to only 0.79 inches of moisture falling in June 2002. Participants of the CFO convention to Breckenridge, *Summit*, experienced a few fresh inches of snow on 7 June and it was certainly interesting to watch Broad-tailed Hummingbirds actively searching for food in a spruce/fir winter

wonderland. Leukering noted large numbers of American Pipits forced downslope from that snowstorm. Other observers also commented that summer came late with little herbaceous vegetation present in many montane areas until mid-June.

July was a complete reversal from June though, with most locations across the state having unbearable heat and dry conditions. At a state average of 72.8 degrees for the month, July 2003 was the warmest on record. Rainfall was a measly 1.02 inches, which is well below normal. As Merchant pointed out though, the cooler and wetter June greatly improved plant growth and it appears that the amount of forage available for birds was higher than in 2002.

The summer produced several noteworthy rarities with reports of Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Common Moorhen, Arctic Tern, Inca Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, and Painted Bunting.

Note 1: The reports contained herein are largely unchecked, and the authors do not vouch for their authenticity. Underlined species are those for which the Colorado Bird Records Committee requests documentation. The Colorado Field Ornithologists' website (<http://www.cfo-link.org>) has a link to the rare bird Sight Record reporting form that can be submitted electronically; the same form is also printed on the inside cover of this journal's mailer.

Note 2: All locations are annotated as to county (and counties are *italicized*). Locations that are reported five or more times have the county listed only on the first notation. For sites that are split between counties, the county in which the sighting occurred is given, if known, otherwise both are listed.

Note 3: The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1998) through the 44th Supplement (Banks et al. 2003). Some of the taxonomic arrangements have changed significantly from previous checklists.

Abbreviations: **A&R**=Andrews and Righter (1992); **BBA**=Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998); **CBR**=Chico Basin Ranch; **CBRC**=Colorado Bird Records Committee; **CVCG**=Crow Valley Campground; **m.ob.**=many observers (used for birds that were refound, either the same day or on subsequent days, by others); **NP**=National Park; **NWR**=National Wildlife Refuge; **Res.**=Reservoir; **RMBO**=Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; **SP**=State Park; **SWA**=State Wildlife Area.

Wood Duck: Four males (possibly a post-breeding bachelor group) were present at Flagler Res., *Kit Carson*, on 3 June (BK), an unusual location. Four broods were also reported from just north of Castlewood Canyon SP, *Douglas*, during the summer (fide HK). Unusual for the season was a male found at Eagle, *Eagle*, on 3 July (JMe).

Greater Scaup: Late was the bird observed at Arapahoe NWR, *Jackson*, on 7 June (DF et al.).

Surf Scoter: The very late Surf Scoter present in late May at Kenosha Pass, *Park*, remained at that location until at least 1 June (KB, BRe, CTK).

Common Goldeneye: Common Goldeneyes are considered accidental during summer in mountain parks and on the eastern plains (A&R). Thus the reports of a pair at Windy Gap Res., *Grand*, on 6 June (GWa, m.ob.), a female present from 22 June through the remainder of the period along the Goodnight River Trail in Pueblo, *Pueblo* (RM, MY), and a male at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 2 July (BKP) are noteworthy.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Barrow's Goldeneyes breed locally at scattered lakes in the Flattops Wilderness Area in northwestern Colorado. Continued evidence of breeding was provided this past summer when Levad found broods at various lakes within that area.

Hooded Merganser: Evidence of nesting was noted from Marston Res., *Denver*, when a female and three young were found by Semo and Faulkner on 26 July. Non-breeding summering birds were noted from four other eastern plains locations. A male present at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, in late May lingered at that location until at least 2 June (fide KP). A second-year male was observed at Valco Ponds in Canon City, *Fremont*, between 8 and 29 June (SM). A pair was present at a pond near South Table Mesa, *Jefferson*, on 16 June (MF, BRi). A female was also present at Walsh, *Baca*, on 26 June (BGi).

Common Merganser: Representing a rare breeding record for southeastern Colorado, Moss reported an adult and seven juveniles from Canon City, *Fremont*, on 2 June.

Scaled Quail: Three were found southwest of Towaoc, *Montezuma*, on 30 July (JBy, SA). Scaled Quails are considered rare in southwestern Colorado.

Gambel's Quail: Small pockets of Gambel's Quail are present in southwestern Colorado, though they are still maintained to be quite rare to uncommon in that

location. A male was discovered near the New Mexico border south of Durango, *LaPlata*, on 27 June (JBy). Six plus were seen west of CR 140, also near New Mexico in *LaPlata*, on 2 July (JBy, PD). Two were also found in McElmo Canyon, *Montezuma*, on 23 July (JBy, SA).

Common Loon: Unusual summer reports included one at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, on 13 June (CD, BW) and two at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, on 21 June (FL).

Red-necked Grebe: Very rare during the summer period in the state, three Red-necked Grebes were reported during the season. One was at a pond in the Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*, between 1 and 3 June (MB, BGu). Another was at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, between 6 and 11 June (JBy, RL, m.ob.). The third bird, which may have been the same bird reported from the same location during the winter, was at Highline SP, *Mesa*, on 9 July (LA).

Western Grebe: Very unusual for a virtually waterless, high montane county was the bird seen by CFO conventioners at the Mount Elbert forebay, *Lake*, on 7 June (TL, m.ob.).

Clark's Grebe: Late for the location was the observation of two Clark's Grebes at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, on 6 June (JBy, RL, m.ob.). Equally as rare, if not even more surprising than the Western Grebe found in *Lake* (see above), was the presence of a Clark's Grebe at the Mount Elbert forebay on 6 June (TL, m.ob.).

American Bittern: Bitterns were reported from at least three locations during the period, including two in early June below Barr Lake, *Adams* (TL), one at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, on 6 June (JBy, RL), where very unusual, and at Interstate 25 and 120th Avenue in *Larimer*, on 2 July (DL).

Least Bittern: The two birds observed in May at the Fort Lyon SWA marshes, *Bent*, were present at that location until at least 28 June, when last observed by Gibbons.

Great Blue Heron: Continued nest monitoring by RMBO indicated increased populations and that the species does not appear to have been affected by the severe drought of the past two years (RL).

Great Egret: Besides reports from typical breeding haunts, two were seen at Valco Ponds in Canon City, *Fremont*, between 14 and 22 June (SM), two were present at Mile High Duck Club, *Adams*, four were near Barr Lake, *Adams*, on 23

July, where they may have bred (DF), and one was at Jumbo Res. SWA, Logan, on 24 July (CLW).

Snowy Egret: Ten adults and four juveniles were present near Barr Lake, Adams, on 24 July (DF); an abnormally high number for that general area.

Green Heron: Green Herons were reported from at least three locations this past summer, including one at Cottonwood Hollow in Fort Collins, Larimer (DL), two along the Canon City Riverwalk, Fremont, between 22 June and 5 July (BKP, SM), and one at Columbine Lakes, Arapahoe, on 27 June (DC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Slightly unusual was the observation of a young bird at Fruitgrowers Res., Delta, on 22 June (JBy, PD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A good showing was had this past summer of this state review list species. An adult was present at the Fort Lyon SWA marshes, Bent, on 27 June (BGi). A maximum count of three juveniles were at Jumbo Res., Logan, where present at least from 24 to 27 July (CLW, m.ob.).

Glossy Ibis: If accepted by the CBRC, the report of a Glossy Ibis at Alamosa NWR, Alamosa, on 10 July (CC) would represent the potentially second record of that species for the San Luis Valley.

White-faced Ibis: The presence of White-faced Ibis on the eastern plains during summer is unusual. Thus the report of one near Walsh, Baca, on 26 June is noteworthy (BGi).

Turkey Vulture: Turkey Vultures are also unusual on the eastern plains during summer. This past year, one was seen by Kaempfer near Stratton, Kit Carson, on 3 June.

Bald Eagle: An adult was seen at Chatfield Res., Douglas, on 29 June. Bald Eagles do not nest at Chatfield and it is possible the presence of an adult at that location during the breeding season may be caused by dispersal of one of the adult birds that failed in its nesting attempt this past spring from Barr Lake area populations. The failed nesting attempts in that area may have been caused by the massive snowfall that occurred in March.

Peregrine Falcon: Unusual observations away from nesting locales included one at Limon, Lincoln, on 7 June (DL), a second-year bird at Fairplay, Park, on 7 June (LS), and one at Runyon Lake, Pueblo, on 19 July (DSi).

Black Rail: The high count for the period was the 20 reported by Gibbons from the Fort Lyon SWA marshes, *Bent*, on 27 June.

Common Moorhen: A nice find was the bird seen in Pueblo West, *Pueblo*, on 19 June (JY). Unfortunately the bird did not stick around for other birders to see this state review species.

American Coot: Adults with young were noted from Molas and Andrews Lakes, *San Juan*, during the period (CLW), which constitutes a rare breeding record for this high montane county.

Sandhill Crane: Two were observed flying overhead in *Larimer* on 7 June (DB et al.). Sandhills were again noted breeding in that county when Komar found nesting birds at a traditional location during the period. Three adult pairs of Sandhills were also reported from near Hebron, *Jackson*, on 10 June (BSc).

Semipalmated Plover: The first report of fall migrant birds were the two seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 27 July (BKP, CLW).

Piping Plover: Piping Plover populations continue to increase in the Arkansas River drainage of Colorado. This past summer 25 birds were noted by Nelson, which is five higher than any year since 1990. Sex ratios in the state this past year were heavily skewed towards males, however, with only 6 females being observed. All six females successfully nested, fledging 20 young, a new high record for the state (DN).

Mountain Plover: A couple of observations of Mountain Plover came from the eastern plains in areas the species is generally not seen often in, including one north of Flagler, *Kit Carson*, on 3 June (BK) and two north of Strasburg, *Adams*, on 10 July (DF). The highest fall migration staging count was 211 seen at Upper Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on 24 July (BGI).

Greater Yellowlegs: Somewhat early for southwestern Colorado was the report of one at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 28 July (JBy).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Probably a spring migrant, and if so, quite late, was the report of one at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 21 June (JBn).

Willet: A late spring migrant was seen at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 4 June (GW). On the return trip, one was seen at Chatfield Res., *Douglas*, on 26 July (LS, DF).

Spotted Sandpiper: One was seen at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 28 June (JBy), which is early for fall migration in that area.

Upland Sandpiper: One was seen near Jumbo SWA, *Logan*, on 23 June (DL), which is a typical location for that species. More unusual locations this species was reported from included one at CVCG, *Weld*, on 13 June (GW, TL) and a flyover at Pueblo Res. on 27 June (BKP, CLW), constituting a rare *Pueblo* record.

Marbled Godwit: Potentially representing a first county record for *Lake* was the bird seen at the Mount Elbert forebay on 7 June (TL, m.ob.). Early for fall migration was the godwit seen at Miramonte, *San Miguel*, on 26 July (CD, BW).

Western Sandpiper: One was at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 28 July (JBy), which is early for fall migration in that part of the state.

White-rumped Sandpiper: The latest spring migrants reported included two at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 4 June (GW), nine at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, on 6 June (CD, BW), which is an area where there are less than ten local records, and 15 in *Larimer* on 7 June (NKr).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Pectoral Sandpipers are rare in spring in Colorado. Thus the bird observed on 12 June at Gilcrest, *Weld*, by Gibbons and Beason was especially interesting. The first fall migrant was noted on 24 July at Prewitt Res., *Washington* (CLW).

Long-billed Dowitcher: The latest spring migrant reported was from Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 21 June (JBn). Early for fall migration in southwestern Colorado were the three seen at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 28 July (JBy).

Wilson's Phalarope: This species is also rarely encountered in July in southwestern Colorado. This past summer, one was seen by Beatty at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 28 July.

Red-necked Phalarope: The first fall migrants (single birds) were seen by Wood on 24 July at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, and Jumbo Res., *Logan*.

Franklin's Gull: Non-breeding birds observed during the summer included one at the Fort Lyon SWA marshes, *Bent*, on 28 June (BGi) and three at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 30 June and 2 July (BKP).

Bonaparte's Gull: Quite unusual for summer was the bird seen at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, between 6 and 13 June (CD, BW).

Caspian Tern: One was at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, between 12 and 29 July (NKe, RS). A&R considered the species accidental in summer for western Colorado. On the eastern plains, one was near Prospect Road in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 18 July (DL) and another, or possibly the same bird, was seen at Cottonwood Hollow in Fort Collins on 31 July (DSm).

Arctic Tern: Exciting was the discovery of an Arctic Tern by Oswald at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 19 July. Only a few other lucky souls (VAT, DN, JTh) were able to see the bird. Truan obtained excellent photographs of this state review species.

Least Tern: Nelson noted the first increase of this species in the state since 1998 when he estimated a total of 33 birds along the Arkansas drainage system lakes during the 2003 summer period. Beason observed two birds at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 21 June, a location the species does not regularly inhabit. Very unusual was the sighting of a Least Tern at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta*, on 6 June (CD, JBy, RL, m.ob.).

Black Tern: Unusual for summer was the bird seen at Swetizer Lake, *Delta*, on 29 July (RS). One was also seen at a pond in South Park near Fairplay, *Park*, on 7 June, where it is considered rare to uncommon. Levad noted that he believed there to be only one active nest in the state this year, which was at Walden Res., *Jackson*. Unfortunately, the nest failed.

Band-tailed Pigeon: Leatherman observed 10-15 birds in Poudre Canyon, *Larimer*, on 19 July. That is a relatively high count for that far north in the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Collared-Doves were well distributed across the state with reports during the period. RMBO surveys for the species yielded occurrences from 34 of Colorado's 64 counties. Other reports submitted included birds from Springfield and Walsh, *Baca* (DL); Norwood, *San Miguel* (CD, BW); Wiley, *Prowers* (DL); Limon, *Lincoln* (DL); Pueblo West and Rye, *Pueblo* (BKP); Byers, *Arapahoe* (TM), the Pinery south of Parker, *Douglas* (HB), and Salida, *Chaffee* (BKP, CLW, SY).

White-winged Dove: This species continues to expand in numbers throughout the state. This past summer, no fewer than 21 birds were noted. One was present during spring and lingered until 12 June in northeastern Colorado Springs, *El Paso* (fide KP). Eleven were noted in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, between

18 and 22 June (SO). One was at Canon City, *Fremont*, on 29 June (SM). One was at Upper Table Mesa, *Boulder*, on 10 July (GO, MO). Four were in Springfield, *Baca*, on 12 July (DL). That observation yielded three adults and one juvenile, providing clear evidence of breeding of this species in the state. Another was in Vilas, *Baca*, on the same date as well (DL). Lastly, Gibbons observed two in Strasburg, *Adams*, on 23 July.

Inca Dove: This species also continues to expand its population in the state, though seemingly at a magnitude less than that of White-winged Dove. Two Inca Doves were observed this past summer at the traditional location of Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 18 June (SO).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Yellow-billed Cuckoos are considered rare local summer residents in western Colorado (A&R). It is believed that populations in those areas constitute the declining western subspecies *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, a federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Though the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo is believed to have a larger and thicker bill, longer wings and tail, and a slightly grayer coloration than eastern cuckoos (*C. a. americanus*), those traits are at best subtle and are not reliable as field identification traits to differentiate eastern and western populations. It can be surmised, however, that cuckoos in mountain valleys and the West Slope may pertain to *occidentalis* and sightings in those areas are of interest. Dexter and Wright reported a Yellow-billed Cuckoo this past summer in Hotchkiss, *Delta*, on 6 June (CD, BW) and a pair bred near LaJara, *Conejos* (BLM survey team), which apparently represents the first known breeding record for the San Luis Valley. On the western edge of the range of *americanus* (presumably), a bird was noted from the Canon City Riverwalk, *Fremont*, between 21 June and 6 July (SM, BKP). Other Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports came from more eastern plains locales, where expected.

Barn Owl: On the western edge of its range on the eastern plains, a pair of Barn Owls successfully bred, fledging three young, in Parker, *Douglas*, an area characteristic of foothills rather than plains (RB).

Northern Pygmy-Owl: Representing the first confirmed breeding of the species for the Sangre De Cristo range, two young pygmy-owls were found at La Veta Pass, *Huerfano*, on 1 July (RF).

Spotted Owl: One was heard from its traditional haunt near Beulah, *Pueblo*, on 14 June (BKP, SC).

Long-eared Owl: A pair successfully nested south of Eagle, *Eagle*, during the

summer, fledging two young (JMe). A Long-eared was also heard calling in the Pike NF, *Chaffee*, on 25 July (BKP, CLW).

Boreal Owl: The first confirmed nesting record for the Rio Grande NF and the San Luis Valley area was obtained this past summer when a nest was documented near Del Norte, *Rio Grande*, between 1 June and 1 July (MS).

Common Nighthawk: Common Nighthawks begin their fall migration early and are oftentimes very gregarious during that period. Though Colorado does not experience the impressive numbers of migrating nighthawks as some eastern U.S. locations, relatively large groups of migrants are sometimes reported. Leatherman noted 100 plus birds at Arapaho NWR, *Jackson*, on 26 July.

Chimney Swift: Potentially representing the first county record for *Grand*, one was observed and documented from Kremmling on 7 June (BSc, DF et al.).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One was seen and photographed at Weldona, *Weld*, on 30 July (CLW, TL).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: North of usual, Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted from two northern Front Range counties during the period. A female was present at Parker Regional Park, *Douglas*, on 3 June (GW) and up to three males were reported from Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*, between 1 and 21 July (BB, GW, m.ob.).

Calliope Hummingbird: The easternmost fall migrant report came from the RMBO office, *Adams*, where an adult male was present on 22 July (DF).

Rufous Hummingbird: The easternmost observation was from Weldona, *Weld*, where one was seen on 30 July (TL, CLW).

Lewis's Woodpecker: Gent found a Lewis's Woodpecker at 7,500 feet in elevation along Gold Basin Creek in *Gunnison* on 12 June. Based on A&R, this is the second record for *Gunnison*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: West of its normal range was the observation of one near Lyons, *Boulder*, on 1 June (RD). Even more surprising was the bird found in North Park near Hebron, *Jackson*, on 19 June (FL).

Acorn Woodpecker: Acorn Woodpeckers were found at the traditional spot in Wildcat Canyon near Durango, *LaPlata*, where up to three were present during the period (JBy, m.ob.).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker: On the extreme western edge of its range in Colorado, one was seen near Interstate 25 in *Huerfano* on 12 June (LS), one was seen in Pryor, *Huerfano*, on 13 June (BKP, BBH), while another was seen west of Walsenburg, *Huerfano*, on 19 June (DL).

Three-toed Woodpecker: Three reports were provided for the summer season. One was of two birds seen along Old Lake Isabel Road, *Pueblo*, on 20 June (DSi). Five birds seen along the Calico Trail, *Dolores*, on 16 July (CD, BW). A pair was reported to have nested at Endovalley in Rocky Mountain NP, *Larimer*, during the period (fide GM, m.ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Interesting considering the elevation was the report of two seen at South Table Mountain, *Jefferson*, on 3 June (MF). It is possible the birds represented late migrants.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The reported observations of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at CVCG, *Weld*, from 12 June would represent the second record for Colorado if accepted by the CBRC (AP, JMa, DF, m.ob.).

Alder Flycatcher: Very surprising was the bird seen well and photographed during the CFO convention trip to *Lake* on 7 June (GW, TL, m.ob.). If accepted by the CBRC, the sighting would be the first for the county and the first in the state west of the Front Range.

Willow Flycatcher: Willow Flycatchers are uncommon to locally fairly common summer residents in mountain valleys and foothills. Their status on the eastern plains is considered to be migrants only, however. Being a late spring migrant, birds can still be found on the plains well into June, as was noted this past summer with observations of single birds coming from Last Chance, *Washington*, on 8 June (DL) and at CVCG on 13 June (PG, JK, DSc, GW). A calling bird was found near Elbert Road, *Elbert*, on 30 July (AS, GW). As with many *Empidonax*, Willow Flycatchers begin their fall migration early.

Least Flycatcher: Interesting was the find of a singing bird present at the Gypsum Campground, *Eagle*, between 6 June and 5 July (JMe, VZ). A second Least Flycatcher was found on 14 June just southeast of Eagle, staying at that location until at least 28 June (JMe).

Black Phoebe: Twenty four Black Phoebes were reported during summer. The winning location, as usual, went to the San Miguel River in *Montrose*, where Dexter and Wright tabulated a minimum of 20 birds through the area. Other

reports came from Burnt Mill Road, *Pueblo*, where a single bird was present between 12 June and 3 July (BKP, JW), from Royal Gorge, *Fremont*, where a bird was found on 3 July (MP), and from Canon City, *Fremont*, where an adult and juvenile were present from 27 June through the remainder of the period (SM).

Eastern Phoebe: Reports from the western edge of its normal range included continued observations of a nesting pair near Portland, *Fremont*, through at least 25 July (SM) and six (adults and juveniles) present at Canon City, *Fremont*, on 27 July (SM).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: North of its typical breeding range, single Ash-throated Flycatchers were observed at Rabbit Mountain Open Space, *Boulder*, on 10 June (DE) and near Franktown, *Douglas*, in late June or early July (KM).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Unusual was the sighting of one near Interstate 25 in *Huerfano*, well west of normal, that was present at least from 5 to 10 June (GW, LK, RH). Hopefully details of this sighting will be provided to the CBRC. Interesting was that a Great Crested Flycatcher was observed at this location in 2001 (Leukering, pers. comm.).

Cassin's Kingbird: Beatty reported three or four pairs of this species from the southwestern portion of *LaPlata* on 27 June, a high number for that area.

Eastern Kingbird: One was seen west of Walden, *Jackson*, on 7 June (BSc, DF, m.ob.). Eastern Kingbirds are considered rare in mountain parks.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: The bird present at the intersection of Black Forest and Woodman Roads in northern *El Paso* was last reported on 9 June (CL). The pair from summer 2002 returned to their location 8 miles south of Lamar, *Prowers*, in spring. They successfully nested and remained through at least 18 June when Semo observed both adults and three fledged young. Kellner observed another Scissor-tailed Flycatcher six miles south of Limon, *Lincoln*, on 19 July and that bird was present through the remainder of the period (m.ob.).

White-eyed Vireo: Faulkner found one singing at Castlewood Canyon SP, *Douglas*, on 23 June and it remained there until at least 7 July (GW, AS).

Gray Vireo: Considered to be a rare local breeder on the East Slope, one was found singing south of Walsenburg, *Huerfano*, on 9 July (VAT).

Red-eyed Vireo: Unusual locations this species were observed from this past summer included one at CVCG on 13 June (PG), one at South Table Mountain, *Jefferson*, on 16 June (MF, BRi), one at Castlewood Canyon SP, *Douglas*, in late June or early July (KM), and one still singing in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 21 July (DSi).

Gray Jay: Gray Jays continued to be found in Gunnison, *Gunnison*, where Leatherman observed an adult and juvenile there on 23 July.

Chihuahuan Raven: North of its typical range, one was seen at Garden of the Gods, *El Paso*, on 31 July (GW).

Purple Martin: Interesting was the sighting of three Purple Martins on 14 and 15 June at Trinidad, *Las Animas* (PS). Purple Martins are considered to be accidental by A&R for that region. Dexter and Merchant observed between 10 and 15 birds in July, including fledged young, at Van Springs Reservoir on Cottonwood Pass, which is located between Carbondale and Gypsum, *Eagle*. RMBO's continued monitoring surveys estimated that there are somewhere near 200 Purple Martin colonies in Colorado with colonies averaging approximately three nesting pairs and ranging from one to ten pairs.

Bushtit: Very unusual was the observation of a pair of Bushtits feeding in Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) at an elevation of approximately 8,200 feet in the Taylor River Canyon northwest of Almont, *Gunnison* (PG). There are but a few previous records for *Gunnison*. On the northern edge of its Front Range range, Leatherman reported a single bird from Spring Canyon Dam in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 14 June.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Interesting was the report by Leatherman of nesting kinglets at the Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, *Larimer*. Leatherman noted that kinglets nest at that location roughly once every three years.

Eastern Bluebird: The westernmost summer report came from Franktown, *Douglas*, where one was seen in late June or early July (KM).

Veery: On the southern end of its range, territorial birds were noted from Huerfano SWA, *Huerfano*, on 29 June (BKP) and near Manitou Lake, *Teller*, on 26 July (BKP, CLW).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: On the tail end of spring migration, Semo found one at CVCG on 1 June.

Swainson's Thrush: Large numbers of Swainson's Thrushes were still migrating through Colorado in very early June. On 1 June, Semo conservatively estimated 50 plus present at CVCG. By 4 June, however, only three could be found at that location (LS). The latest migrant was reported from Last Chance, *Washington*, on 8 June (DL).

Northern Mockingbird: Potentially representing the first county record for *Lake* and the farthest upstream report for the Arkansas River drainage, one was seen at Leadville on 7 June during a CFO convention trip (TL, m.ob.).

Sage Thrasher: Interesting was the report from two observers who commented on finding very high elevation Sage Thrashers at two locations this past summer. One was in krumholtz in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, *Boulder*, in late June (DH) and Schmoker found two at St. Mary's Glacier, *Clear Creek*, on 6 July.

Brown Thrasher: On the western edge of its range, Brown Thrashers were observed from Lyons, *Boulder*, on 1 June (RD), from Walden/Sawhill Ponds, *Boulder*, between 22 June and 6 July (JTU, JBr, m.ob.), and from Parker, *Douglas*, on 9 July (AS, GW).

Cedar Waxwing: Gibbons had his waxwing search image finely tuned this past summer when he found Cedar Waxwings at three different plains locations, where they are considered rare in summer. Two were at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 17 June, three were seen near Walsh, *Baca*, on 26 June, and he observed at least three at Red Lion SWA, *Logan*, on 2 July.

Tennessee Warbler: A late migrant male was found by Semo at CVCG on 1 June. More surprising was the bird banded at Estes Park, *Larimer*, on 28 July (fide SR).

Northern Parula: A late migrant female was seen at CVCG on 13 and 14 June (PG, TL). Interesting was the singing male found by Gibbons at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 17 June.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One was observed on the Grand Mesa, *Mesa*, on 2 June by Stigen, representing the second summer record for Mesa.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A singing male was seen by the Martins at Falcon Ridge, *Larimer*, on 14 June.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The bird found in late May by Silverman at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, remained at that location until at least 7 June (m.ob.).

Grace's Warbler: Leukering and Gobris discovered a small population of Grace's Warblers south of Walsenburg, *Huerfano*, on 4 June and other observers continued to see the birds until at least 28 June. Grace's Warblers are rare breeders on the East Slope.

Black-and-white Warbler: The territorial male present for the past two years at Castlewood Canyon SP, *Douglas*, again returned in 2003 when it was observed in late June (KM). Gobris also found a bird at Rocky Mountain NP during the period.

American Redstart: Unusual locations this species were observed included a singing male on 7 June in *Larimer* (NKr), a female banded by Gould at Trout Creek, *Teller*, on 8 June, and a singing male present between at least 12 June and 16 July at Meadow Creek in Colorado City, *Pueblo* (BKP).

Ovenbird: Besides reports from traditional breeding locations, a singing male was seen by Stump et al. at the Alamosa Golf Course, *Alamosa*, between 29 June and 18 July.

Hooded Warbler: Two singing males were found during the period. One was at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, on 22 June (NKr). The other was at the typical location of Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, where observed by Paulios on 3 July.

Wilson's Warbler: Early for the elevation was the female banded by Gould at Trout Creek, *Teller*, on 11 July.

Hepatic Tanager: Leukering and Gobris found Hepatic Tanagers on 3 June in *Huerfano*, west of Interstate 25 exit 42. Up to four tanagers were subsequently viewed at that location by many others with the last date reported being 9 July. A pair was also discovered in *El Paso* along Highway 94 on 30 July (GW, AS).

Western Tanager: Early was the post-breeding dispersal bird observed at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins on 31 July by Leatherman. On the same date, two were seen at South Table Mountain, *Jefferson*, occupying Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) patches (MF).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Truan found the first *Huerfano* county record of Rufous-crowned Sparrow when he observed a bird on 9 July.

Clay-colored Sparrow: A rare West Slope report (and rare for the season) was the observation of a Clay-colored Sparrow in Craig, *Moffat*, on 8 June (JBy).

Brewer's Sparrow: Again Brewer's Sparrows were found during summer at high elevations in the state. Two were seen by Figgs and Lederer in krumholtz at Mount Audubon, *Boulder*, on 1 July. Schmoker found five at St. Mary's Glacier, *Clear Creek*, on 6 June. The habitat affinities of Brewer's Sparrows at high elevations in Colorado is comparable to that of "Timberline Sparrow" (*Spizella breweri taverneri*), a currently recognized subspecies of Brewer's found in the Canadian Rockies and southeastern Alaska. There has been discussion that Timberline Sparrow is significantly disparate from Brewer's and may be a true species. Though the known range of Timberline Sparrow does not currently include Colorado, the presence of 'Brewer's Sparrows' at timberline areas is perplexing and further investigations may someday indicate that "Timberline Sparrow" actually does occur in Colorado during the summer. Or potentially more accurate, we may find that Brewer's Sparrows actually have a broader habitat selection range than currently known and that vegetational structure, not composition, is the determining factor in breeding range selection in Colorado.

Lark Sparrow: Lark Sparrows bred at the RMBO headquarters at Barr Lake (TL). This species is a rare breeder in the Denver metropolitan area.

Lark Bunting: Unusual was the report of five Lark Buntings from South Table Mountain, *Jefferson*, on 31 July (MF).

Northern Cardinal: The only report was of two seen at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, on 27 July (IS, GW, TE, GG, LW).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Four were reported this past summer. One was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 21 June (KP). A singing male was present south of La Veta, *Huerfano*, on 23 June (BKP). A female was seen northwest of Durango, *LaPlata*, on 1 July (JBy). Finally, a non-breeding plumaged male was seen at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, on 27 July (IS, GW, TE, GG, LW).

Lazuli Bunting: Lazuli Buntings were reported from two high-elevation areas this past summer. On 7 July, Beatty found a singing male north of Hesperus, *LaPlata*, at an elevation of approximately 10,000 feet. On 9 July, Leatherman observed one northeast of Vallecito Res., *LaPlata*, at an elevation of 9,000 feet.

Indigo Bunting: Birds were noted from South Table Mountain, *Jefferson*,

between 3 June and 24 July (MF, NL), from near Pryor, *Huerfano*, on 5 June (GW, LK), and from Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 21 July (DSi).

Painted Bunting: Komar reported two males of this species from Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, on 22 June.

Bobolink: The small population of Bobolinks returned to their Canon City, *Fremont*, location where up to three birds were seen by Moss between 1 June and 1 July.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Considered rare in *Summit*, one was seen at an elevation of 8,800 feet north of Silverthorne by Jennings on 17 July.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Leatherman reported a count of 175 plus at Vilas, *Baca*, on 12 July. This is a high concentration for that period considering that many cowbirds are in pairs or small groups during the summer.

Baltimore Oriole: Surprisingly, two male Baltimore Orioles were present along the Front Range during the summer. The first was present in *Larimer* between 9 June and 1 July (JBn). The other bird, originally discovered in May, remained at Barr Lake SP through the summer period (EZ, m.ob.). The bird successfully bred, raising young with an apparent female Baltimore x Bullock's Oriole.

White-winged Crossbill: Surprisingly, a number of White-winged Crossbills spent the summer in the south-central mountains during the summer of 2003. Two were seen between 3 and 5 July at Shaw Lake, *Mineral*, by Stump, representing the first record for the Rio Grande NF and San Luis Valley area. On 6 July, one was seen at Spruce Hole, *Conejos* (LR). Between 7 and 26 July, three were seen at Moon Pass, *Saguache* (JBn, m.ob.). Two were observed at Uncompahgre Peak, *Hinsdale*, on 27 July (CK). Finally, one was seen by Ghormley at Black Mountain, *Mineral*, on 30 July. Rawinski noted that besides the number of White-winged Crossbills present in that area, Red Crossbills were also very abundant.

Lesser Goldfinch: Unusual locations this species were reported from included six at Como, *Park*, on 8 June (DF, m.ob.) and one at Limon, *Lincoln*, between 7 June and 31 July (DL).

Contributing Observers

Susan Allerton, Larry Arnold, Harold Backer, John Baker (JBr), Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Ken Behrens, Michelle Bloom, Robert Bowling, David Bray, Bob Brown, Deb Carstensen, Sherry Chapman, Cameron Cox, Ray Davis,

Peter Derven, Coen Dexter, Tammy Ellsworth, Dave Ely, Doug Faulkner, Mike Figgs, Mike Foster, Peter Gent, Randy Ghormley, Brian Gibbons (BGi), Nancy Gobris, Gregg Goodrich, Patrick Gould, Bryan Guarante (BGu), BB Hahn (BBH), Dave Hallock, Rachel Hopper, Hugh Jennings, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Hugh Kingery, Connie Kogler, Nick Komar (NKr), Nick Korte (NKe), David Leatherman, Nan Lederer, Norm Lewis, Cici Lee, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Forrest Luke, Joe Mammoser (JMa), Steve and Kathy Martin, Gary Matthews, Jack Merchant (JMe), Karen Metz, Theresa Middlemist, Rich Miller, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, George Oetzel, Marti Oetzel, Stan Oswald, Ken Pals, Arvind Panjabi, Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson, Scott Rashid, Lisa Rawinski, Bill Reddinger (BRe), Bob Righter (BRi), Ira Sanders, Bill Schmoker (BSc), Dick Schottler (DSc), Melissa Scott, Randy Seibert, Larry Semo, David Silverman (DSi), Dixie Smith (DSm), Pat Snider, Andrew Spencer, Lee Stigen, John Stump, Janeal Thompson (JTh), Charles Thornton-Kolbe (CTK), John Tumasonis (JTU), Van A. Truan (VAT), Glenn Walbek, Laurie Walbek, Jeff Webster, Christopher L. Wood (CLW), Brenda Wright, John Yaeger, Mark Yaeger, Vic Zerbi, Eric Zorawowicz.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Andrews, R. and R. Righter. 1992. *Colorado Birds: a reference to their distribution and habitat*. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver.
- Banks, R. C., C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen Jr., J. Rising, and D. F. Stotz. 2003. Forty- fourth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. *Auk* 120:923-931.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). [Internet]. 2003. [Accessed Dec 2003]. <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den/cli/climo.html>.
- Kingery, H. E. 1998. *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*. Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership, Denver.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 2001. <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den/cli/climo.html>