

REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1998 RECORDS

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This report covers the rare bird records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the committee) for 1998. The committee evaluated 161 records of 101 species (including one hybrid) submitted by 71 observers. Twenty-three of the reports were accompanied by photographs, sketches, or field drawings, and two included videotapes. Each of the 161 records has received definitive votes by the CBRC through initial circulation, re-circulation, and consultation, and is presented here. An additional four records that had previously received non-definitive votes (Gyr Falcon 1997-22, Eurasian Collared-Dove 1997-47, Painted Bunting 1997-105 and Purple Finch 1997-108) were resolved per CBRC by-laws at a meeting of the committee and the results are included herein. One hundred thirty-one of the 1998 records were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 81%. The majority of records are birds observed in 1998. Per CBRC bylaws, all "accepted" records received 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept, either on the initial circulation or on the re-circulation. All records that were "not accepted" received fewer than four votes to accept either on initial circulation or on re-circulation, or more than one "not-accept" vote during the meeting of the committee.

Two species, Curlew Sandpiper and Green Violet-ear are added to the Colorado State list as a result of the 1998 circulation and are published in this report. Other potential first state records (California Condor, White-tailed Kite, Common Ground-Dove, Gilded Flicker, Red-throated Pipit, and Black-chinned Sparrow) were not accepted and are also published in this report. The Colorado State List stands at 465 species following these additions.

Other highlights of this report include second accepted records of White Ibis and Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Colorado. Two species that were "split" by the AOU in 1997 and whose review status is still unclear, Blue-headed Vireo and Eastern Towhee, had additional records submitted in 1998. The committee encourages observers to submit all observations of these species for the next few years so a better determination can be made on how often these species occur in the state.

It was encouraging to see some older records that observers had let “slip through the cracks” years ago were being submitted this year. The old adage of “better late than never” is certainly true. As long as you use the original notes you have and only report what you have seen there is no problem with submitting old records. That goes for re-submitting previously non-accepted records too. This year we had several previously reviewed reports come in with clarified information, other observer documentation, or updated reference materials that we considered.

The committee’s membership at the close of the 1998 was: Bill Lisowsky (chairman), Joey Kellner, Tony Leukering, Joe Mammoser, John Rawinski, Chris Wood, and Vic Zerbi. With the endorsement of the CBRC, Karleen Schofield was appointed by the C.F.O. board at the end of 1998 to fill Joey Kellner’s expiring term. Tony Leukering agreed to serve an additional three-year term. Karleen and Tony will serve from 2000-2002.

Committee Functions: All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. All written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum and are available for public review. The committee solicits documentation on all species on its review list (Janos 1998), on unusual occurrences by date or location, and on species unrecorded in Colorado.

Please send rare bird documentation and any other committee correspondence either to: Bill Lisowsky, CBRC Chairman, 2919 Silverplume Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80526; or to the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collection, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798.

Report Format: This report is divided into three parts. Part 1 consists of records that were accepted and Parts 2 and 3 consist of records that were not accepted—either for reasons of identification, questions of natural occurrence, or origin. Species are listed in current A.O.U. taxonomic order (AOU 1998). Within species, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is its location, including county, date(s) of occurrence, the record accession number (note the recently modified format of “four digit year - record number,” e.g. “1998-55”) and the initials of observers who submitted reports. If known, the initials of reporting observers who discovered the bird(s) are underlined. The date span follows the submitted record date(s). Records are sight records unless otherwise

noted. An asterisk (*) prior to a species' name indicates that it is not currently on the CBRC's review list. For species with ten or fewer Colorado records, the number in parentheses following the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this reporting period.

Abbreviations used in the report: Co. (County); CBC (Christmas Bird Count); CC (Community College); NP (National Park); Res. (Reservoir); SP (State Park); SWA (State Wildlife Area); WE (Wildlife Easement).

Part 1: RECORDS ACCEPTED:

RED-THROATED LOON - *Gavia stellata*. An immature bird was at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co.) on 12/1/95. (BKP; 1998-1)

***PACIFIC LOON** - *Gavia pacifica*. A rare western slope record, one was seen at Confluence Park (Delta Co.) on 12/11/98. (KP; 1998-2)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON - *Gavia adamsii*. A basic-plumaged bird, first located by Dave Quesenberry, was at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) from 12/26/98 through at least 3/18/99. (BKP, MJ; 1998-3)

RED-NECKED GREBE - *Podiceps grisegena*. A first-winter bird was seen at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 10/31/98. (DQ; 1998-4)

LITTLE BLUE HERON - *Egretta caerulea*. A juvenal-plumaged bird was seen in Adams Co. near Lochbuie on 8/1/98. (TL; 1998-6)

TRICOLORED HERON - *Egretta tricolor*. An adult visited Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 5/16/98 to 5/18/98. (PP, TL; 1998-7)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - *Nyctanassa violacea*. Two records were accepted. An adult in breeding plumage was seen at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 3/28/98 (MJ; 1998-8). A bird at Lower Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 9/16/98 was a second year bird. (MJ; 1998-10)

WHITE IBIS - *Eudocimus albus* (2). This extremely rare bird, an adult, is believed to have moved between Bayfield (La Plata Co.) and Blanca Wetlands (Alamosa Co.) during the period of 4/15/98 and 5/5/98. (LA, JK, JRa, LR; JK and JRa photos; 1998-11)

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus*. A big year for this species and perhaps indicative of a real trend as five different records were accepted. A breeding-plumaged adult was seen near Lake Meredith (Crowley Co.) during the period of 4/11/98 to 4/19/98. (MJ; 1998-12) For the third time in the past four years, one was seen along Buckley Road (Adams Co.) on 4/18/98. This bird was also an adult in breeding plumage. (RO; 1998-13) On 4/22/98, an adult was seen feeding with White-faced Ibis at Metro Lake near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.). (DSi; 1998-14) Duane Nelson found two other birds at Lower Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 5/

4/98, and then at least one was later re-sighted by others on 5/5/98. (DS; 1998-15) The fifth record from the spring of 1998 was of an adult found on 5/14/98 near Holbrook Res. (Otero Co.). (KS; 1998-16)

TRUMPETER SWAN - *Cygnus buccinator*. This bird offered direct comparison to a Tundra Swan for an extended period of time but the only submitted report of the widely viewed bird at Dodd Res. (Boulder Co.) was on 3/10/98. (LC, photos; NS; 1998-19)

EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope*. The Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) streak of annual visits continued, though much earlier than previous records, as Dave Leatherman found an eclipse male (same bird as past years?) on 10/19/97. This bird completed its molt to basic plumage as it stayed until at least 2/15/98 at Edora Park and other small ponds in the vicinity. (DAL, DCE, RO, SJD; 1998-20)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - *Anas rubripes*. The recent trend of numerous sightings continues. A male in alternate plumage was seen at Neenoshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 1/25/98. (TL; 1998-21) A female was found at Woods Lake (Weld Co.) on 1/30/98 and re-sighted on 1/31/98. (SJD; 1998-22) An adult female was first noted on 1/25/98 at Bittersweet Park in Greeley (Weld Co.). The bird remained for the better part of a week, with the last report made on 2/1/98. (NK, DS, SJD, JMa, PG, RO; 1998-23)

***SURF SCOTER** - *Melanitta perspicillata*. An adult male was seen and photographed near Monte Vista (Rio Grande Co.) from 5/5/98 to 5/7/98. (JRa, photo; LR; 1998-27)

***WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - *Melanitta fusca*. A female or immature was seen 12/10/98 at the Colorado River near Dotsero in Eagle Co. (JM; 1998-28)

BLACK SCOTER - *Melanitta nigra*. Barr Lake (Adams Co.) hosted an adult male on 10/18/98. (RO; 1998-29)

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - *Buteo lineatus*. Always a difficult identification problem, two different records were accepted in 1998. An immature was seen at Rocky Ford SWA (Otero Co.) on 3/1/98 (MJ; 1998-33), and a first-summer bird was seen and carefully documented at Gregory Canyon (Boulder Co.) on 5/29/98. (PG; 1998-35)

***BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - *Buteo platypterus*. A dark-morph bird seen 11/7/97 at Barr Lake (Adams Co.) was accepted. (LN; 1998-37)

GYRFALCON - *Falco rusticolus* (7 & 8). A previous submittal was updated and re-routed through the committee with additional documentation. The committee unanimously voted to accept the record of an injured, juvenile bird found near Center (Saguache Co.) on 12/13/97. (JRa, SD; 1997-22) Over 120 observers viewed the bird first found by Dr. Ronald

Ryder at Rawhide Power Plant (Larimer Co.) on 1/18/98, making it perhaps the most widely seen “Gyr” in Colorado. The bird remained until at least early February, thrilling many with acrobatic stoops on Canada Geese. (RAR, SR; SJD, photos; PG; BL, photos; 1998-38)

BLACK RAIL – *Laterallus jamaicensis* (6, 7 & 8). Brandon Percival heard and saw between one and six birds at two different locations during May of 1997. Ft. Lyon Marsh (Bent Co.) and Bent’s Old Fort Marsh (Otero Co.) were sites of a number of singing birds on 5/9/97 and 5/10/97. (BKP; 1998-39) Four birds were heard at Ft. Lyon Marsh (Bent Co.) the following year, on 5/9/98. (BKP; 1998-40) Yet another was heard at Two Buttes Res. on 5/24/98. This was the first accepted record from Baca Co. (BKP; 1998-41)

***UPLAND SANDPIPER** – *Bartramia longicauda*. The record from Meeker (Rio Blanco Co.) of one on 8/10/98 is one of very few from the western slope. (CH; 1998-42)

HUDSONIAN GODWIT – *Limosa haemastica*. A female in first spring or incomplete adult alternate plumage was seen near Lake Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 5/14/98. (BD; 1998-45) A male in alternate plumage was seen on 5/27/98 near Beebe Draw (Weld Co.) (DS; 1998-46)

RUDDY TURNSTONE - *Arenaria interpres*. On 9/11/98, a basic-plumaged adult was seen at Jackson Res. (Morgan Co.). (RO; 1998-47)

RED KNOT - *Calidris canutus*. One found several days earlier by Brandon Percival was still at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/19/98. (TL; 1998-48)

CURLEW SANDPIPER – *Calidris ferruginea*. (1) The exciting first state record of this species was found and identified by Duane Nelson. The bird was an alternate-plumaged female that was seen on 6/30/98 and 7/1/98 at Upper Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.). (DN photos; DS; 1998-49)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – *Tryngites subruficollis*. Of the twenty previously accepted records for this species, there is only one that is later than the juvenile bird still present at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/19/98. (TL; 1998-50) John Vanderpoel had originally found two birds there several days before.

LAUGHING GULL - *Larus atricilla*. 1998 was a very good year for this species. One was observed standing among hundreds of other gulls at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 8/23/98. (JV; 1998-54) Another one, a second-year bird, was seen at Lake Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 9/13/98. (MJ; 1998-55) The third report came from Rocky Ford sewage ponds, (Otero Co.) of a first-year bird first found by Brandon Percival on 9/26/98. The bird remained until at least 10/11/98. (MJ; 1998-56)

LITTLE GULL - *Larus minutus*. A juvenile bird was reported and carefully

sketched at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/11/98. (RO; 1998-57)

BLACK-HEADED GULL – *Larus ridibundus*. (3) A first-winter bird was seen for nearly 45 minutes at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co. and Douglas Co.) on 10/27/97. It was first seen on the water, sleeping, preening and actively looking around. It then flew around to within 40 meters of the discoverer, Chris Wood. (CW; 1998-58)

MEW GULL - *Larus canus*. An adult bird was seen standing on the ice at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 12/21/96 during the Pueblo Res. CBC. (BKP; 1998-59) On 12/5/98, a second-basic bird was seen along the shore at Union Res. (Weld Co.) (PS; 1998-60)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – *Larus fuscus*. This is a species that is definitely becoming more common in Colorado. There were four records in 1998, all within an eight-day period. A second-basic bird was at Lake Loveland (Larimer Co.) on 12/13/98. (PS; 1998-61) During the Pueblo Res. CBC on 12/19/98, Tony Leukering found a Basic IV or Definitive Basic bird at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) that remained until at least 12/22/98. (TL, MJ; 1998-62) A bird in Definitive Basic, found by Brandon Percival and Chris Wood, was seen during the Penrose CBC on 12/20/98 at Cañon City. (Fremont Co.) (TL; 1998-63) Another adult was seen on the Rocky Ford CBC at a small pond east of Rocky Ford (Otero Co.) on 12/21/98. (TL; 1998-64)

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – *Larus glaucescens*. (7) A first-winter bird was seen at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 1/24/98. (JR; 1998-65)

***GLAUCOUS GULL** – *Larus hyperboreus*. A sub-adult was seen at Lake Loveland (Larimer Co.) on 4/20/98. (NK; 1998-66)

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - *Rissa tridactyla*. This record was originally circulated in 1996 as #23-96-28 but was not accepted by a vote of 3-4 because it was deemed to be incomplete. It was a first-winter bird seen at Hamilton Res. (Larimer Co.) on 11/27/88 through 11/28/88 (year correct) that was re-submitted with additional information and accepted. (DAL, photo; 1998-67)

***LEAST TERN** – *Sterna antillarum*. J. B. Hayes first found this bird well north and west of its normal range, at Chatfield Res. (Douglas Co.) on 7/7/98. It was re-sighted on 7/8/98. (JK; 1998-68)

ANCIENT MURRELET – *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. (4) The well-documented bird that was rescued and rehabilitated in Louisville (Boulder Co.) was accepted. A newspaper article in the **Daily Camera** chronicled its ill-advised landing in a busy intersection early on the morning of 11/1/95, subsequent treatment at the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation and planned return flight to California. (JH; 1998-69)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - *Zenaida asiatica*. There were four records

reviewed, a very high number for one year. An adult bird was seen at Two Buttes SWA (Baca Co.) on 5/2/98. (KS; 1998-71) Another bird frequented a feeder near Wiley (Prowers Co.) between 6/7/98 and 6/21/98. (JT, photos; 1998-72) A calling bird was in Greenwood Village (Arapahoe Co.) on 6/24/98. (JR; 1998-73) Suggestive of local breeding, an adult and two grown young were seen on 9/16/98 at Rocky Ford (Otero Co.). (MJ; 1998-74)

INCA DOVE - *Columbina inca*. (7) A single bird was seen in a Colorado Springs backyard (El Paso Co.) on 9/22/98. (AV; 1998-75)

***WESTERN SCREECH-OWL** - *Otus kennicottii*. Good documentation of a very easterly and northerly record submitted from Franktown (Douglas Co.) on 5/19/98 and 5/20/98. (HK, UK; 1998-77)

SNOWY OWL - *Nyctea scandiaca*. (9) A private landowner spotted this bird on 2/14/98 and reported it to local birders who were able to re-locate and photograph it until at least 3/1/98. The bird was near Wiley (Prowers Co.) in a shortgrass prairie, where it favored a crumpled stock tank in that field. (JT, MJ; 1998-78)

LESSER NIGHTHAWK - *Chordeiles acutipennis*. A bird first found by Coen Dexter at the Clifton ponds near Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) was re-sighted on 6/11/98, among some of its "common" relatives. (PL; 1998-79)

GREEN VIOLET-EAR - *Colibri thalassinus*. (1) This amazing first state record frequented a feeder near Durango (La Plata Co.) on 7/25/98 and 7/26/98. The bird gave a "loud clicking sound" each time it approached the feeder, which certainly helped observers spot and document it. This southern vagrant has now been seen in most of the states due north of Texas, and is consistent with a mid-to-late summer dispersal pattern. (MP, photos; 1998-80)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - *Archilochus colubris*. (2) Ruth Russell banded a sub-adult male near Powderhorn (Gunnison Co.) on a surprisingly late date of 10/1/98 that constitutes only the second accepted record for Colorado. (RR, SRu; 1998-82)

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte anna*. (7) A photographed male showed up at a Franktown (Douglas Co.) feeder on 5/16/98 and stayed until at least 6/6/98. (HD, KD, UK, HK (photos); 1998-84)

ACORN WOODPECKER - *Melanerpes formicivorus*. (4) An older sighting of 2-3 birds near Durango (La Plata Co.) on 6/25/95 was submitted and accepted. (HK, photo; 1998-85) A male was seen in this same area on 6/13/98, and now seems to be resident there. (TL; 1998-86)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - *Contopus virens*. While birding on 5/23/98 at the Little Washington Work Center of the Comanche National Grassland, (Baca Co.) Dan Svingen heard a familiar though "out-of-

place” bird call that was quickly confirmed by others in the group. (DSv, IS, TL; 1998-88) Bill Tweit was visiting from out of state and heard one call at Sawhill Ponds (Boulder Co.) on 7/30/98, and was able to videotape it the next day and pass the word so others could find it. This bird stayed until at least 8/22/98. (BT, video, PG; 1998-89)

BLACK PHOEBE - *Sayornis nigricans*. Kim Potter had three different sightings on 3/22/98. One was at Uravan (Montrose Co.) (KP; 1998-90), one was at Calamity Bridge (Montrose Co.; KP; 1998-91), and one was near Gypsum Gap. (San Miguel Co.) (KP; 1998-92) Brandon Percival found one at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 4/21/98. (MJ; 1998-93) Two birds, most likely a male and female, were at Big Gypsum Valley Bridge in San Miguel Co. on 7/6/98. (KP; 1998-94)

WHITE-EYED VIREO - *Vireo griseus*. A bird first reported on 5/10/98 at Chatfield SP (Jefferson Co.) was seen by many observers through at least 5/26/98. The bird sang repeatedly and was well seen on several occasions. (DS, DQ, photo; 1998-95)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - *Vireo flavifrons*. A group of folks spotted this adult bird in breeding plumage at Fort Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 5/1/98 and 5/2/98. (MJ, DQ; 1998-96)

***CASSIN’S VIREO** – *Vireo cassinii*. It is great that folks continue to submit reports on the Solitary Vireo splits while we try to establish a clear pattern and distribution for the three “new” species. This one was seen at Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver (Adams Co.) on 9/13/98. (UK, HK; 1998-98)

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - *Vireo solitarius*. The most uncommon of the three newly elevated species from the Solitary Vireo split, there are actually very few documented records in the state. Though there are certainly many other observations over the years, the bird seen at Barr Lake (Adams Co.) on 9/12/96 is only the fourth submittal. (TL; 1998-99) The CBRC encourages submission of old records of this form to help build a record of its occurrence in the state.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – *Vireo philadelphicus*. The first bird of two rare sightings was mixed among a number of eastern vagrants that Mark Janos found at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 9/5/98. (MJ; 1998-100) The second was of a bird that Dave Silverman found west of Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) on 10/1/98. (DSi; 1998-101)

***CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN** – *Corvus cryptoleucus*. An extremely northerly record comes from Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 3/30/98, as a bird was feeding at a platform feeder and seen well. (BM; 1998-102)

CAROLINA WREN - *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A singing bird found by Dave Silverman was still present near Olive Marsh (Pueblo Co.) on 3/16/98. (CW; 1998-103)

SEDGE WREN – *Cistothorus platensis*. John Prather heard and saw one of these normally secretive birds below the dam at Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 5/10/98 that others were able to re-find later. (JP, TL, LN; 1998-104)

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - *Catharus minimus*. Three records were received and accepted in 1998. One bird was seen on 5/9/98 at Ft. Lyon (Bent Co.) during the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) convention. (TL; 1998-105) Two other birds were also seen during the convention, at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/8 and 5/9/98. (MJ; 1998-106) The third sighting was of one seen moving about on the ground at Crow Valley Campground on the Pawnee National Grassland (Weld Co.) on 5/19/98. (JR; 1998-107)

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus naevius*. For the second time in recent years, one was seen at a Colorado State Forest Service nursery in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.). This reclusive female was first seen during the Fort Collins CBC on 12/20/97 but hung around until at least 1/10/98. (DAL; 1998-108)

PHAINOPEPLA – *Phainopepla nitens*. (9) Rosie Watts saw a male on 6/3/98 in Penrose (Fremont Co.) at the edge of a fish pond/birdbath. (RW; 1998-111) The second report was of a (probable adult) female that was found and photographed by Chris Wood at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) as it perched and hawked insects among some cottonwoods below the dam on 7/23/98. It was seen by a number of other birders for several days thereafter with the final reported sighting on 7/26/98. (CW, photos; DS; 1998-110)

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora pinus*. Dave Silverman and Dave Johnson found a female at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on the morning of 5/2/98. Others were able to find the bird the next day. (DSi, MJ, RO, DQ; 1998-81) Another record, a male at Lamar CC in Prowers Co. on 5/20/98, was submitted and accepted. (BKP; 1998-112) Joe Mammoser found a male singing along the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins on 6/4/98 that was re-located the next day by a birding tour that heard about it from local birders. (PL; 1998-113)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora chrysoptera*. A male was found by Brandon Percival at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.) on 5/11/98 as it fed and sang in the mid-to-low levels of trees. (CW; 1998-114) Another male (an adult) was seen on 5/16/98 at Alamosa Canyon, near Capulin (Conejos Co.) as it fed in the tops of some cottonwoods. (JRa; 1998-115) The third report was also of an adult male, at Tamarack Ranch (Logan Co.) on 5/19/98. (DSi; 1998-116)

***CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – *Dendroica pensylvanica*. A breeding-plumaged male was seen actively feeding about 40 feet up in some

aspens near McClure Pass (Pitkin Co.) on 6/18/98. (JBH; 1998-118)

***BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – *Dendroica caerulescens*. A rare summer record came from Dolores (Montezuma Co.) on 6/28/98. Chris Wood was wandering around town waiting for a co-worker when he heard this bird singing in the distance. (CW; 1998-119) A fall report of another male, on 11/17/98, also came from the west slope at Animas Valley, near Durango (La Plata Co.). (GC; 1998-120)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - *Dendroica fusca*. A breeding-plumaged male was seen at Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 5/26/98 in a fairly dense ponderosa pine forest as it sang. (BM; 1998-121) Another male was heard singing at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 5/26/98. (CW; 1998-122) Brandon Percival found a male at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 9/2/98. (MJ; 1998-123)

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - *Dendroica dominica*. A male was found by Brandon Percival near Fort Lyon (Bent Co.) on 5/16/98. (RO, DQ, photos; 1998-124)

PINE WARBLER - *Dendroica pinus*. It pays to be attentive while you work. At the Washington Work Center in Baca Co. on 6/15/98, Dan Svingen noticed a warbler about 20 feet off the ground in a tree while he was working. It turned out to be an individual of this rare species. (DSv, IS 1998-125)

PRAIRIE WARBLER - *Dendroica discolor*. Always a rare find, a first-year female was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) between 8/24/98 and 9/5/98. (BBH, RO, DE, DQ, photos; 1998-126)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - *Dendroica castanea*. A female was seen on 5/16/97 at the Lake Henry grove (Crowley Co.) amid the other exciting migrants. (BKP; 1998-127) Another female, this a first-year bird, was seen on 5/23/97 and 5/24/97 at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) as it worked through some cottonwoods along Willow Creek. (BKP; 1998-97) A first-fall female was carefully described from Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 9/5/98. (SJD; 1998-128)

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - *Protonotaria citrea*. An adult male was found as it sang at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 5/26/98. (CW; 1998-129) A report of another male was received of a bird seen on 8/30/98 at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.). (BBH; 1998-130) The third report from 1998 was of a bird that Dave Leatherman found along the Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 9/12/98 which remained and was seen again the next day by others. (DAL; 1998-131)

WORM-EATING WARBLER - *Helmitheros vermivorus*. This was a good year for a species that has begun to be recorded on multiple occasions nearly every year now. An actively-feeding bird was seen

as it flitted from the ground to lower tree branches at Bear Creek Park near Colorado Springs (El Paso Co.) on 5/1/98. (JoM; 1998-132) One was seen before and during the CFO convention at the Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 5/3/98 and what was probably the same bird was still present as late as May 9th. (DQ, photos; RO, MJ; 1998-133) A second bird that was also reported during this same convention was still present at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/8/98. (MJ; 1998-134)

KENTUCKY WARBLER - *Oporornis formosus*. An adult was seen west of the Valco Ponds parking area (Pueblo Co.) on 10/17/96 after it gave itself away with its "chip" note. (BKP; 1998-137) A male was in the Gregory Canyon area in Boulder Co. on 6/7/98, singing its distinctive, loud song. It was still present on 7/31/98 in the same vicinity. (RO, BT; 1998-138)

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - *Oporornis agilis*. (7) An adult male was seen skulking along the creek and through the woodlands behind Lamar CC on 5/16/97. (BKP; 1998-139)

MOURNING WARBLER - *Oporornis philadelphia*. A spring adult was found along railroad tracks near Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 5/15/98. (DSi; 1998-140)

***HOODED WARBLER** - *Wilsonia citrina*. A mated pair on a nest with two eggs was monitored and documented at Gregory Canyon (Boulder Co.) between 5/15/98 and 8/1/98 by numerous observers and photographers. (PG, BW photos, BT, RS; 1998-141)

CANADA WARBLER - *Wilsonia canadensis*. On 5/21/98, a female popped up briefly on a currant bush at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) to the delight of two birders. (JF; 1998-142) Brandon Percival found one at Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 9/4/98, which was seen through 9/7/98. (MJ; 1998-143)

SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea*. A female or immature male was found by Brandon Percival during the CFO convention at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 5/8/98 to 5/10/98. (DQ, photos; MJ; 1998-161) On 5/11/98, a male was seen in Lincoln Co. east of Highway 71 on 3V road. (CW; 1998-145) A male was feeding on insects in the treetops in northern Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 7/22/98. (RK, AC, BBH; 1998-146)

EASTERN TOWHEE - *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. (4) This is another species for which Colorado has few documented records since the AOU split. This species also presents a tough identification challenge, due mostly to the occurrence of hybrid Eastern x Spotted Towhee individuals in eastern Colorado. Hearing the distinctive vocalizations of this species is an important separation criterion. The bird seen on 5/14/98 at the Julesburg Rest Area (Sedgwick Co.) was heard and

convincingly described. (NK; 1998-148)

***RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW** – *Aimophila ruficeps*. Two out-of-range birds were seen on the Penrose CBC (Fremont Co.) on 12/20/98. (DSi; 1998-150)

BAIRD'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus bairdii*. (8) A large, short-tailed “mouse” that was running down the tracks of a pasture road on the Comanche National Grassland (Baca Co.) turned out to be one of these rare sparrows for Dan Svingen. The bird was seen on 4/17/98, and exhibited its usual “hooked” flight pattern, followed by running through the grass away from the observer. (DSv; 1998-152)

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus leconteii*. (8) Scott Roederer and Susan Ward found this bird during one of the Estes Park Bird Club field walks at Lake Estes (Larimer Co.) on 4/25/98. A beautiful photo taken by Dick Coe accompanied this carefully written report. (SRo, SW, DC photo; 1998-153)

***HARRIS'S SPARROW** – *Zonotrichia querula*. A very rare summer record was received of a male at Hot Sulphur Springs (Grand Co.) on 6/4/98. (ME; 1998-154)

PAINTED BUNTING – *Passerina ciris*. A female in a very uncommon plumage was seen at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/17/97. Rather than the typical green overall, the lower part of the belly was grayish white. This bird was voted on during the 1997 record review but not resolved until accepted by the committee during its 1998 annual meeting. (MJ; 1997-105) A male was seen on the exceptionally early dates of 3/23/98 to 3/26/98, at a backyard feeder in Delta (Delta Co.) with a flock of sparrows. (MZ, SZ; 1998-156) Another adult male, though still very rare, was in a more likely location at Cottonwood Canyon (Baca Co.) on 5/23/98. (PGa; 1998-157)

***BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – *Icterus galbula*. An immature male was very late on 11/1/98, about a half mile from Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) (DSi; 1998-158)

***COMMON REDPOLL** – *Carduelis flammea*. Eleven birds, consisting of adult males, females, and immatures were seen near Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) on 11/2/98. (EM; 1998-160)

Part 2 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable:

BROWN PELICAN – *Pelicanus occidentalis*. An immature bird reported from Pagosa Springs (Archuleta Co.) between 5/28/98 and 5/30/98, was most likely correctly identified but the report was felt to be too sketchy and the record was not accepted by a vote of 1-6 (1998-5).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – *Nyctanassa violacea*. The

submitted report of one from Timnath Res. (Larimer Co.) on 8/11/98 was intriguing, but judged to be incomplete primarily because the observation time was just too brief to completely rule out the possibility of Black-crowned Night-Heron. The vote was 0-7. (1998-9)

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus*. The committee struggled with this particularly tough identification challenge with a record from Neesopah (Kiowa Co.) on 7/13/98, before deciding by a re-circulation vote of 2-5 not to accept. (1998-17)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - *Anas rubripes*. There is always the concern about possible hybridization between this species and Mallard. A bird seen at Little Gaynor Lake (Boulder Co.) on 10/20/98 was especially difficult. Despite careful observation by the observer to determine and eliminate this possibility, the committee debated this record and decided by a re-circulation vote (2-5) to not accept it. (Drawing; 1998-24)

MALLARD "MEXICAN DUCK" – Good documentation and photographs were presented of a bird described as a "hybrid" at Milton Res. (Weld Co.) on 10/10/98. However, the committee voted 2-5 and did not accept the record. (photo; 1998-25)

TUFTED DUCK x SCAUP (hybrid). A report of an adult male frequenting small ponds along the South Platte River in Adams Co. on 3/16/98, was not accepted by a vote of 2-5 (1998-26). Most CBRC members felt that the bird in question was a hybrid but there was much confusion over its parentage.

WHITE-TAILED KITE – *Elanus leucurus*. A very good report was submitted of a bird believed to be this species at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 9/11/98. Most of the committee felt that this was a correct identification but there were some important identification points missing. The committee will usually choose to be much more conservative in the case of a potential first state record and voted 3-4 not to accept. (1998-30)

***MISSISSIPPI KITE** – *Ictinia mississippiensis*. An adult bird was briefly seen as it flew over a line of slow-moving traffic on the extremely early date of 3/26/98 near Pueblo (Pueblo Co.). The committee did not agree that all possible similar species were eliminated, and after initial and re-circulation votes were indecisive, it was then discussed at the annual meeting but was not accepted by a final vote of 0-4. (1998-31)

COMMON BLACK-HAWK – *Buteogallus anthracinus*. A record of an adult bird, from Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 5/11/98, was not accepted by a vote of 1-6. Unfortunately, the description provided was very brief and similar species were not eliminated. (1998-32)

- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** – *Buteo lineatus*. The committee always struggles with reports on this species. Of course, so do the birders in the field. A bird seen at Clifton Marsh (Mesa Co.) on 5/9/98 was not accepted 3-4 (1998-34). Likewise, an adult seen on 6/1/98 at Ouray (Ouray Co.) was not accepted by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-36)
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT** - *Limosa haemastica*. Eight birds were seen in poor viewing conditions 5/8/98 at Little Gaynor L. (Boulder Co.) and one was seen at this same location on 5/10/98 for only 10 seconds. Both reports were felt to be inconclusive and both received 2-5 votes. (1998-43 and 1998-44)
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – *Limnodromus griseus*. This San Luis Lake SP (Saguache Co.) record on 11/26/98 did not receive a decisive vote on the first round and on re-vote, the committee was unable to eliminate the potential of a Long-billed Dowitcher, and voted 1-6 not to accept it. (1998-51)
- POMARINE JAEGER** - *Stercorarius pomarinus*. A sub-adult bird seen at Huerfano Lake (Pueblo Co.) on 8/30/98 was not accepted by a vote of 1-6 after re-circulation. All jaegers are difficult to separate, and the document provided was excellent, however, the short observation did not rule out all other congeners. (1998-52)
- PARASITIC JAEGER** - *Stercorarius parasiticus*. As in the previous record, the committee also wrestled with the report of a light-morph adult at Chatfield Res. (Douglas Co.) before deciding by a re-circulation vote of 3-4 not to accept it. The report was well written but the observation time on 9/22/98 did not allow full differentiation of needed field marks or separation from similar species. (1998-53)
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – *Streptopelia decaocto*. After re-circulation and re-voting in 1997, questions remained of a bird seen in Longmont (Boulder Co.) on 11/10/97. The committee met and decided not to accept during its annual meeting as it felt that Ringed Turtle-Dove was not eliminated by the description. (1997-47) By a vote of 3-4, a report from Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 9/6/98 was denied because the brief observation did not provide conclusive details. (1998-70)
- GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina*) species** – This species continues to be a “near miss.” A bird seen on 4/14/98 as it crossed in front of a car at Lake Hasty Recreation Area (Bent Co.) was seen too briefly and incompletely for a first state record. The observers suspected this was likely a Common Ground-Dove but did not feel they had seen it well enough to rule out Ruddy-Ground Dove. The vote not to accept was 2-5. (1998-76)
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** - *Archilochus colubris*. A very supportive report was reviewed of a male at Crow Valley Campground

(Weld Co.) on 5/21/98. The committee voted on re-circulation not to accept (1-6). The separation of this species from a male Broad-tailed is always a tough call. (1998-83)

GILDED FLICKER – *Colaptes chrysoides*. This potential first state record was extremely well documented, including a well filmed video that showed the bird for long periods of time and at all angles as it fed at a backyard suet feeder near Berthoud (Larimer Co.) between December 1997, and April 1998. The vote not to accept was 0-7 because the committee just could not rule out the possibility of an intergrade Northern Flicker, though most observable characteristics were supportive. (1998-87)

RED-THROATED PIPIT – *Anthus cervinus*. This record was from Rocky Mountain NP (Larimer Co.) of two adult males amidst American Pipits and Horned Larks on the tundra on 6/12/98 but the committee did not feel the identification was definitive. The report did not eliminate breeding-plumaged American Pipits, of which the distinctive Rocky Mountain race is not depicted in most field guides and is quite reddish below. The vote was 0-7 to accept. (1998-109)

***TENNESSEE WARBLER** – *Vermivora peregrina*. The committee definitely haggled over this one, a male seen at Lathrop SP (Huerfano Co.) on 5/8/98. The lingering possibility of this being a similar species and the unusual location resulted in a non-acceptance by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-117)

***NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – *Seiurus noveboracensis*. The identification of a bird seen briefly along the Arkansas River in Pueblo Co. on 1/20/98 was likely correct, as all noted points were consistent with this species. However, the committee felt there was still some doubt and given this very unusual date, it was not accepted by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-135)

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – *Seiurus motacilla*. A bird of this species was reported from Two Buttes SWA (Baca Co.) on 5/9/98. This was another difficult field identification supported by excellent details, but there were several missing identification points that caused the committee to vote 3-4 not to accept this report. (1998-136)

SCARLETTANAGER – *Piranga olivacea*. Immature and female tanagers are especially difficult to identify and describe. No doubt that is why there are many magazine and journal articles about the challenge. A brief account of a bird seen on 5/11/98 at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) was felt to be incomplete in its separation from other tanager species, and was not accepted by a vote of 3-4. (1998-144) Another report, from Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Adams Co.) on 9/13/98 was also not accepted by a vote of 3-4 for the same reason. (1998-147)

EASTERN TOWHEE – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. The lack of any vocalizations being heard left the committee in a quandary on this report, two birds at Tamarack SWA (Logan Co.) on 5/14/98. The committee voted, re-voted, and in the committee meeting finally broke the deadlock by deciding not to accept this suggestive but non-conclusive report. (1998-149)

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW – *Spizella atrogularis*. A potential first state record, the description provided for the bird seen for three consecutive days during mid-May 1998 near Hotchkiss (Delta Co.) was extensive but after review, the committee did not feel it was conclusive and voted 0-7 not to accept. (1998-151)

***NORTHERN CARDINAL** – *Cardinalis cardinalis*. The bird described at Laporte (Larimer Co.) on 6/15/98, was most likely of this species, however the brevity of the report and lack of similar species discussion did not rule out many other potentials. By a vote of 0-7 the record was not accepted. (1998-155)

***BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – *Icterus bullockii*. This report was voted on three different times, perhaps indicative of the difficulty of separating winter immature orioles. The final vote on an immature male bird seen on 2/24/98 at Jackson Lake SP (Morgan Co.) was taken at the annual committee meeting and resulted in a non-acceptance. (1998-159)

PURPLE FINCH - *Carpodacus purpureus*. All plumages of this species are difficult identification challenges. A carefully-described record of a male near Gould (Jackson Co.) on 10/22/97 carried over from the 1997 package was still “not decisive” after being re-circulated and after much discussion was not accepted by a vote taken at the 1998 committee meeting. (1997-108)

Part 3 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, establishment of introduced population questionable:

CALIFORNIA CONDOR – *Gymnogyps californianus*. The submission of the record from the Lands End Observatory on the Grand Mesa (Mesa Co.) on 8/25/98 is extremely important to the archives of Colorado birds, despite the fact that these were obviously re-introduced birds from Arizona. As these birds hopefully begin to re-inhabit wild areas, records such as this will help track their establishment and perhaps dispersal patterns. (1998-18)

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