

REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

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Introduction

In 2000, the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) received reports from 65 contributors covering 168 occurrences of 91 species. Due to certain organizational matters, the Chair held back a small number of these submissions for review at a later time. The records held were all from 2000 and comprised all jaeger reports (record numbers 2000-42, 2000-43, 2000-44, 2000-45, and 2000-46), an Arctic Tern report (2000-66), and one Baird's Sparrow report (2000-151). One record of a female *Archilochus* hummingbird (documented with photographs; 2000-168) has been tabled, pending external expert review. Another record, of Eurasian Collared-Dove (2000-72), has been tabled in anticipation of the receipt of documentary photographs. The CBRC decided to archive, but not review, a report of Cassin's Vireo from Grand Junction (2000-105). Though the Committee allowed as how there are few specific West Slope records of this species, it felt that the species is common enough throughout the state to not warrant review. If you are looking for the results of the CBRC's review of 2000 reports of the Jackson Reservoir Long-tailed Jaeger, either Iceland Gull (*Pueblo* or *Boulder/Weld*), or the Union Reservoir Arctic Tern, be aware that none was submitted for inclusion in the 2000 circulation. It is not too late!

This CBRC report covers the evaluation of 216 reports from 53 contributors of 158 occurrences of 85 species. The vast preponderance of reports in this circulation (164 of 168), which was effected in 2001 and early 2002, was from the year 2000, but with reports dating back to 1998. Of these, 143 records of 78 species were accepted and reports on 15 occurrences of 12 species were not accepted. This year's acceptance rate is 90.5%, which is similar to those of previous years (e.g., 89.5% in 1997; Janos 1999). Per CBRC bylaws, all

“accepted” records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept, or, in the case of records that remained undecided after two rounds, received no more than one “not accept” vote at the Committee’s annual meeting. Each record that was “not accepted” received fewer than four votes to accept (3-4, 2-5, 1-6, 0-7) in the final vote for that record, or in the case of records that remained undecided after two rounds, received more than one “not accept” vote at a Committee meeting.

A total of 35 counties was represented among the accepted records. As one would expect, the I-25 corridor and the plains Arkansas River counties provided the majority of the rare-bird occurrences reported herein, with 14 of those 16 counties getting into the action. This result is due mostly to the extensive birding effort in those areas. The only ones neglected were *Huerfano* and *Crowley*. The former is expected as it is little birded, but the latter is quite odd, as the county hosts Lake Henry, the site of many a goodie in the past. The top ten counties in numbers of accepted records herein (with the number of records in parentheses) are *Bent* (18); *Pueblo* (13.5); *Larimer* (12); *Prowers* (10); *El Paso* (9); *Adams*, *Otero*, and *Weld* (8 each); *Jefferson* (7); and *Baca* (6). The reason for the half-record in *Pueblo* is that the county had to share its reliable Pueblo Reservoir-wintering Great Black-backed Gull with *Arapahoe*, where the beast spends its autumns.

Within these “well-birded” counties, the distribution of records is amazingly focused. The majority of *Bent* records were from the John Martin Reservoir vicinity (though admittedly, that reservoir takes up a goodly portion of the county). *Pueblo* records were either between Pueblo Boulevard and the center of Pueblo Reservoir or in the vicinity of David Silverman in the southern part of the county. *Prowers* records were almost entirely from Lamar and *El Paso* records were mostly from where Alan Versaw birded, though Big Johnson Reservoir provided a couple reports that were not submitted by Alan. *Adams* records were at or in the vicinity of Barr Lake SP, *Otero* records were mostly in or near Rocky Ford, and *Weld* records were dominated by Crow Valley campground. *Jefferson* records were nicely scattered, but *Baca* records were almost all from below the dam at Two Buttes SWA. These data illustrate that we certainly do have our favorite places and that there is probably an interesting site or two going unbirded!

The distribution of reports by observers was fairly typical for recent years, with twelve birders submitting at least five reports. The 12 were Leukering (30 submissions), Wood (23), Janos (18), Semo (16), Leatherman (12), Faulkner (11), Schofield (9), Mammoser (7), and Olson, Quesenberry, Silverman, and Versaw (5 each). Unfortunately, these 12 observers submitted 67.6% (146 of

216) of all the documents considered for the 158 occurrences on which the CBRC reached decisions. The Committee would truly like to see more participation in the CBRC's archival and review process by the Colorado birding community.

The majority of records are submitted by only one observer. One may think that this is an efficient use of energy, as then birders can cooperate to submit a larger number of records. However, this is not necessarily preferred by the Committee. The CBRC greatly appreciates receiving multiple viewpoints on individual records as, almost invariably, one observer omits something important from her/his report that a second reporter might include. Thus, more of the important bits get written in the record somewhere. This is critical, as the CBRC views each record in its entirety, not just one submission at a time. Of the 15 records that were not accepted in this circulation, 14 of them were one-reporter submissions. This is a good illustration of why multiple submissions are a very good thing!

Western Colorado remains very much under-represented among all records, not just accepted ones, due simply, one hopes, to the fewer birders resident there. However, the submission rate from southwestern Colorado jumped tremendously in 2001, thanks mostly to a small coterie of birders in Durango. This is a very welcome change, as that corner of the state has huge potential and, other than a few spectacular records (e.g., those of Green Violet-ear and Pyrrhuloxia), very little information has come out of that area recently. The acceptance rate of submissions from west of the I-25 corridor counties (84.2%; 16 of 19) was about the same as the overall acceptance rate (90.5%). What little difference there is can be attributed to the small sample size of western reports (one additional accepted report would have made the rate 89.5%) and the larger percentage of western reports that are one-reporter submissions. *Gunnison* and *Ouray* led the west with two accepted records each; 12 other western counties each had one accepted record.

As a result of the 2001 circulation, one species, Slaty-backed Gull, was added to the state list, bringing the all-time species total for Colorado to 470. One additional species was provisionally accepted, that being Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The CBRC bylaws do not permit the acceptance of a first state record without physical evidence (e.g., photograph, tape recording, or specimen) or an accepted sight record with more than one submitting observer. With the subsequent acceptance of at least one additional record meeting the qualifications of a first state record, the provisionally-accepted record of that species is elevated to "accepted" status and becomes the first state record. Other highlights of this report include second accepted records

of Tufted Duck, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Barred Owl, and first West Slope records of Bell's Vireo and Red Fox Sparrow.

Committee News

The Committee's membership at the close of 2001 was: Peter Gent, Tony Leukering (Chair), Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo (Secretary), John Vanderpoel, and Chris Wood. In 2000, Percival and Vanderpoel were appointed to three-year terms, replacing Joey Kellner and John Rawinski, whose terms had expired and both of whom had elected not to serve another term. Also, Bill Lisowski moved to Kentucky and stepped down as Chair, with Leukering being appointed to complete Bill's term. Larry Semo was appointed to the CBRC to replace Lisowski. Finally, Peter Gent was added to the Committee to complete the final year of the term that Vic Zerbi resigned. So, have you got it all straight, now? The terms of Gent and Wood expired at the end of the year. Chris was appointed for another three-year term and Ric Olson was appointed to fill the other vacancy. The Chair, on behalf of the whole CBRC, would like to thank outgoing members Gent, Kellner, Lisowski, Rawinski, and Zerbi for their efforts; they are much appreciated. Additionally, the Committee welcomes Ric to its membership! The members' term-expiration dates and contact information are printed on this journal's masthead.

Committee Functions

All records received (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (formerly the Denver Museum of Natural History), 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of records in Colorado for all species published in its review list, both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. in prep.), and for records of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. Please send your documentation to Tony Leukering (PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601) or to the CBRC c/o the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (address above). Documentation forms are available on the inside of this journal's mailer and on the CFO web site (<http://www.cfo-link.org>). Though handwritten and typed documentations are greatly appreciated, electronic versions make the Committee's job much easier (and with >160 reports/year, we definitely appreciate ease). Documentation can be submitted via the CFO web site.

Report Format

The organization and style of this report are similar to those used in past reports (e.g., Janos 1999), but with aspects influenced by various California Bird Records Committee reports (e.g., Bevier 1990), and is presented in four

parts. Part I consists of accepted records and Part II the (very short) list of provisionally-accepted records. The records that were not accepted are listed in Part III, with all such records this time being due to questions concerning identification (origin questions are also an option for non-acceptance). Part IV lists reports that were tabled for later action.

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow the A.O.U. Check-list (A.O.U. 1999) and its supplement (A.O.U. 2001). An asterisk preceding a species name indicates that the species is not currently a review candidate. 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 (1991-2000). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement on the CBRC Review List, which is being reviewed and updated (Semo et al. in prep.). 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. The best example is provided by the wintering Great Black-backed Gull that has been documented at Pueblo Reservoir (and at Cherry Creek Reservoir during migration) each year of that bird's life, but for which the annual reports, all accepted, are currently entered in the database as separate records.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Each record presents as much of the following information as possible: 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, and, if relevant, second round (with "accepted" votes 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; 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 who submitted a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials and initials of those that submitted videotape are followed by a lower-case, italicized "v" (*v*). Thus, the parenthetical expression "(JD v; RA†; 2000-178; 4-3, 5-2)" has the following meaning: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and as the finder is first in the list of those that submitted details; RA, though alphabetically first of the two submitting observers was not the finder, so comes second. RA also submitted, at least, photographic documentation of the bird(s); the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2000-178; 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 record. If the indicated record is in Part I, then the report garnered fewer than two “not accept” votes in the final vote at the CBRC meeting. If the record is in Part III, then it was not accepted due to receiving more than one “not accept” vote. Most records are decided in 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 2002). 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 for these dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans. Comments on this topic would be much appreciated.

Abbreviations used in the report are: **BJR**=Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*; **BLSP**=Barr Lake State Park, *Adams*; **CCR**=Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*; **CR**=County Road; **CVCG**=Crow Valley campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*; **FLWE**=Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*; **JMR**=John Martin Res., *Bent*; **LCC**=Lamar Community College, *Prowers*; **NWR**=National Wildlife Refuge; **PPWG**=Prospect Park in the Wheatridge Greenbelt, *Jefferson*; **PR**=Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*; **Res.**=Reservoir; **SP**=State Park; **SWA**=State Wildlife Area; **TBSWA**=Two Buttes SWA, *Baca/Prowers* (below the dam is in *Baca*).

Part I. RECORDS ACCEPTED

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata* (28/17). An alternate-plumaged adult was at JMR 3-21 May 2000, with submitted documentation covering only the last date (TL, **BKP**; 2000-1; 7-0). Another alternate-plumaged adult was at Ramah Res., *El Paso*, 5-8 June 2000, with documentation received only for 6 June (AV, **DSu**; 2000-2; 7-0). The final record for the year was of a juvenile at PR, 3 November – 16 December, but with documentation covering only 3 November (TL; 2000-3; 7-0). The Ramah occurrence establishes only the second summer record for the state, the previous being from 1999.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (15/9). One molting into alternate plumage was at BJR 25 March-28 April 2000 (DI†; GL†; LN; **BM**; 2000-4; 7-0). Despite this bird’s long stay, few observers submitted details to the CBRC and documentation spans 26 March-18 April.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* (18/7). The presence of an individual at PR 5 October – 23 November was the only 2000 Colorado occurrence of the species for which a record was submitted (for 3

November only) this year (TL; 2000-5; 7-0).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (12/4). A juvenile was at Neesopah Res., *Kiowa*, 6 August 2000 (MJ; 2000-6; 7-0).

LEAST BITTERN *Ixobrychus exilis* (15/2). A singing bird was documented on 15 May 2000 at the marshes south of HH Road at the west end of JMR (CLW; BKP 2000-7; 6-1). There had evidently been at least two birds here on a previous date.

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea* (36/15). An adult and a molting subadult were together at Blue Lake (Adobe Creek Res.), *Bent*, on 10 May 2000 (CLW†; BKP; 2000-8; 7-0). Another molting subadult was at Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR, *Adams*, on 14 May 2000 (HEK; UK; LW†; 2000-9; 7-0). Another adult was near Evans, *Weld*, 19-20 May 2000 (JH, DM†, SH; 2000-10; 7-0).

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (17/6). A Tricolored "not in full breeding plumage" was at Russell Lakes SWA, *Saguache*, 28 June-24 July (DeL, DF, RLe; 2000-11; 7-0). This report provides the first county record and only the second San Luis Valley record.

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (5/4). A juvenile pranced along the edges of Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, 3-17 September 2000 and was seen by many, though often at great distance (MJ; 2000-13; 7-0).

WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus* (3/2). An adult that was more of a will-o'-the-wisp than a bird for the first week of its stay was present at BLSP, 17-30 April, with submitted documentation covering 25-30 April (DF, TL†, JMa, LS†, EY; 2000-14; 7-0). This record corresponded with an incredible influx of up to 2000 at Red Slough, OK, peaking on 19 April, and Nebraska's second on 17 May (Grzybowski 2001a). Hundreds remained in Oklahoma through the summer season, with nesting confirmed at Ward Lake, OK, providing the state with its first breeding record (Grzybowski 2001b).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (23/19). Two different individuals, with different ibis flocks, dropped into the same flooded field at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, 16 April 2000 (TL, CLW†, MJ; 2000-16; 7-0). Another was on the west side of Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, 21 April 2000 (CLW†; 2000-17; 7-0). One was east of the Squaw Creek wastewater facility, *Eagle*, 24-28 April 2000 (JMe, JA; 2000-18; 7-0), though submissions only detail occurrence on the 25th. Singles were seen in *Weld* in late May 2000, with one on 22 May near CRs 57 and 60.5 (KS; 2000-19; 7-0) and the other along CR 48 at Lower Latham Res. on 23 May (JF; 2000-15; 7-0).

All individuals reported were adults in alternate plumage. Undoubtedly, the species occurs in the state in autumn but is being overlooked due to the extreme difficulty of identification at that

season. The identification criteria for separating Glossy and White-faced ibises in alternate plumage have been well presented in various works (e.g., Kaufman 1990, Patten and Lasley 2000). However, the field identification of these species in juvenile plumage is currently considered virtually impossible. Because juveniles and immatures cannot be safely identified, the utility of eye color as an identification feature is greatly diminished, at least in identifying Glossies.

*ROSS'S GOOSE *Chen rossii*. An adult was a late-season surprise up high at Walden Res., Jackson, 23 May 1999 (DSm, MH; 2000-20; 7-0). The CBRC would appreciate documentation of high-elevation and out-of-season records of this species.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (19/12). Two adults were documented at Buckingham Lake, Larimer, on 5 February 2000 (LS†; 2000-21; 7-0) during a long winter stay (5 January - 16 February 2000). As will be noted in Semo et al. (in prep.), the CBRC is requesting documentation for all swans recorded in the state. Recently, the present species has greatly increased in occurrence in the state whereas Tundra Swan seems to have greatly decreased. This has created the situation of near parity in Colorado as far as abundance of the two species. Combined with the identification problems inherent in all-white birds, this change is certainly warranted. Additionally, the Committee hopes to deal with the very real problem of Trumpeters arriving in the state from populations that are the result of "reintroductions" that are not yet established.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* (22/9). A first-year male was present on the Arkansas River in Pueblo, Pueblo, 8 December 1999 - 21 April 2000 with the period covered by documentation being 9 January - 21 April 2000 (TL, CLW†; 2000-22; 7-0). Since this individual must have been documented for inclusion on the Pueblo CBC in December 1999, it is unfortunate that those details were not forwarded to the Committee, which hereby specifically requests all such documents in the future (and for past records).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (2/2). Among a huge mass of scaup, Schofield managed to extract the sighting of an adult male at BLSP on 28 March 2000 (KS; 2000-23; 7-0). The excellent documentation provided included some lovely sketches of the bird awake, asleep, and in flight and is a model for all such rarity documentations.

*SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*. An adult female at Paonia, Delta, on 3 November 2000 (DG; 2000-24; 5-2, 7-0) provided one of few documented West Slope records.

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* (19/9). The CBRC received only one documentation for this species in 2000, that of a 1998 sighting

(despite at least three reported 2000 occurrences). The individual, an adult male, was at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, for a week prior to its documentation date of 28 November (TL; 2000-25; 7-0).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK *Buteo lineatus* (16/10). Two reports were received and both were accepted. The first was of a juvenile along the S. Platte River in southernmost *Adams* 1-8 January 2000 (TL, RO, KS, DSc; 2000-26; 7-0). The second individual was a long-staying juvenile at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*, that was present from 1 January 2000 (or before) to at least the documentation date of 11 March 2000 (DQ, KS; 2000-27; 3-4, 1-6).

The second bird provides a good illustration of the workings and mind set of the CBRC, so bears explaining. The Committee originally received only one documentation on this individual, despite the bird's presence for months and its being seen by a large number of Colorado birders. That description enumerated most useful field characters of a juvenile Red-shouldered, though many Committee members felt that too much was left out or not described with enough precision to be convinced of the bird's identity. Some felt that juveniles of other raptor species, particularly Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk had not been sufficiently eliminated by the details provided. However, in the document's favor, it did mention some characters, such as wingtip to tailtip ratio, that are little-used by general birders, but that are well-known in the raptor-fanatic world (in which at least one of these authors admits membership).

The description of the bird left little doubt that it was a juvenile *buteo* as it was said to have translucent wing panels. However, the shape of these panels was not described and the reporter noted that Broad-winged was eliminated by that feature. As most North American *buteo* species exhibit translucent wing panels in juvenal plumage, this statement, more than any other in the documentation, caused CBRC members to vote to not accept it in the first two rounds. The shape of the various species' wing panels is often the key to identification of young *buteos*. The Committee received a second document detailing the same occurrence and the record was accepted.

Both of these Red-shoulders were tallied on the Denver Urban CBC of that year (1 January 2000), but the two reports were recorded on that count as representing a single individual. This despite the

distance between the two being at least 12 miles as the crow flies, but in different drainages and thus at least 15 miles as the river-hugging Red-shouldered Hawk flies. Interestingly, the same CBC recorded adult Mew Gulls (see below) in both of the same places, but the two reports of this highly-mobile species were recorded as different individuals. As for the Eurasian Wigeon, above, the CBRC did not receive any of the CBC documentation for the Cherry Creek Red-shoulder (or the Mew Gull) and we repeat the same plea to compilers to copy documentation that goes to the National Audubon Society and submit those records to the Committee. Though individual observers **might** also submit that documentation, we would prefer two copies to none. We sincerely thank you.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (25/12). One, a probable female, was found at Thurston Res., *Prowers*, on 16 April 2000 (CLW†, TL; 2000-30; 6-1). Another, a male, was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 13 May 2000 (BR; 2000-31; 7-0).

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (28/13). An adult in Definitive Alternate plumage was on a small island on the north side of JMR on 6 May 2000 (MJ, TL; 2000-32; 7-0). Though this species is detected annually in Colorado in both spring and fall migrations, the CBRC has received very few submissions in recent years.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* (19/9). Two juveniles were present at the Rocky Ford sewage ponds, *Otero*, 3-10 September 2000 and seen by a number of observers (MJ; 2000-34; 7-0). Another individual was present 4-10 September 2000 at the "Sharp-tailed Sandpiper spot" in the marshes along JJ Road at the northwestern corner of JMR (MJ; 2000-35; 7-0). This bird, too, was seen by many. The final accepted record of the year involved an unaged bird documented from Jackson Res., *Morgan*, 23 September 2000 (BR; 2000-33; 7-0). Presumably, the individual bird documented was responsible for reports at this locale for at least a few days subsequent to the documentation date. At least one of the subsequent observers apparently saw it well enough to age the bird as a juvenile, which is the expected age at that time of year; adults migrate south ahead of the juveniles.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* (2/1). A juvenile, seen by many Colorado birders, was videotaped during its lengthy stay in a marsh on the north side of CR JJ on the north side of JMR (MJ, JV v, VT; 2000-36; 7-0). The bird was present 3-7 October 2000, but was documented only on the 4th. Thus accepted, the event provides only the second Colorado record for this Siberian breeder, and the first since the *Boulder* occurrence in 1975. So, come 2025, we fully expect all Colorado birders to be out looking for the third record!

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* (23/8). An adult graced Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 31 July 2000 (CLW; 2000-37; 7-0). Two juveniles were found at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 12 September 2000 (DF; 2000-38; 7-0) with these birds apparently present for at least a few additional days. As noted by the observer, the acceptance of the first report provides probably the first conclusive record of an adult in the state in fall; all other reports are from later in the fall and are definitely or probably referable to juveniles.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* (5/1). A displaying male made Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, a very popular birding destination in the evenings from 13 April to 10 May 2000 (SO, LS; 2000-39; 7-0). Stan Oswald found this bird and submitted documentation and a wonderful record of the bird's occurrence at the site, with appearance times, descriptions of weather conditions on different dates, and a running log of the numbers of birders witnessing the spectacle. He provided data on the detection of the bird on "28 straight days" and noted that it "was seen or heard by at least 106 persons." The CBRC received two documents.

RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicaria* (22/8). One molting adult female was videotaped at the west side of Jumbo Res., *Logan*, on 19 July 2000 (CLW†, JE; 2000-40; 7-0). Another Red Phalarope, a juvenile molting into first basic plumage, was found at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 3 October 2000 (DF; 2000-41; 7-0) and was present for at least one additional day.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla* (24/12). Documentation for one in first alternate plumage at JMR 7 July 2000 (CLW; 2000-47; 7-0) was the only one provided to the CBRC in 2000.

***FRANKLIN'S GULL** *Larus pipixcan*. One in definitive alternate plumage graced the BLSP area from at least 22 January 2000 into February (DF; 2000-48; 7-0). That a Franklin's Gull was in the state in January is odd enough, but the bird was in full Definitive Alternate with even the wonderful pink cast to the underparts typical of the species in newly-molted feathers. One wonders what hormonal or innate abnormality caused this event. Interestingly, there were at least two in *Larimer* in early to mid-March 2000 that were also in definitive alternate and were well ahead of typical spring arrival dates. This record also illustrates exactly the kind of odd occurrences of common Colorado birds on which the CBRC would appreciate receiving submissions.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (20/11). A juvenile graced BJR 24-27 September 2000 and the four submissions documented the bird for the period 25-27 September (MJ, JJ, TL, LS; 2000-49; 7-0).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (4/2). An adult in basic plumage visited BLSP for about 20 minutes on 9 October 2000 (DF, TL; 2000-50; 7-0) but, unfortunately, did not linger and was not seen again. Each of the past two Colorado records of Black-headed Gull were seen only by the original finders. Hopefully, the next one will be more cooperative.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (20/14). An adult was at one of the many gravel pit ponds in the S. Platte valley in southern *Adams* on the Denver Urban CBC on 1 January 2000 (TL; 2000-51). The other sighting on that CBC was not submitted to the CBRC.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (39/37). Eight records, all of single birds, were accepted by the CBRC in the 2000 circulation. Interestingly, *Larimer* hosted at least six individuals in winter/spring 2000 with at least one individual in each identifiable age class (see Leukering and Wood 2001). Of these, three have been submitted, all at Lake Loveland on 12 March, though all were present for weeks, if not months: a first-basic bird (LS; 2000-53; 6-1), a second-basic bird (LS; 2000-52; 6-1); and a third-basic bird (LS; 2000-54; 7-0). An adult in basic plumage was at PR from 8 October 2000 into the CBC period and documented twice, on 8 October and 3 November (DF, TL; 2000-55; 7-0). One adult was at CCR at least 15 October - 12 November 2000 (TL, DF; 2000-60; 7-0). Another adult in basic plumage was at Baseline Res., *Boulder*, on 21 October 2000 (BS; 2000-56; 6-1). Yet another basic-plumaged adult was at CCR on 12 November 2000 (TL, JK; 2000-57; 6-1) and was seen in the same flock as the previous bird (2000-60). Finally, a basic-plumaged adult (what else?) was found at Taylor Lake, *Jefferson*, on the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Barrow's Goldeneye count (Leukering et al. 2001) on 3 December 2000 (TL; 2000-59; 7-0).

Due to the great and sudden increase of the occurrence rate of Lessers, the CBRC has removed the species from the main review list. However, we still consider it a review species away from the eastern plains (Semo et al. in prep.) and outside of the typical seasonal occurrence pattern (October through April). In eastern North America, summering individuals are now found in many locations since the species has become regular in those areas. Colorado birders should certainly be on the lookout for them.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (1/1). In what was certainly the event of 2000, an adult in definitive basic was present in *Larimer* for at least a month (6 March - 6 April) in spring of 2000 (DAL, RH†v, TL, JMa, LN, RO, LS†, DEy; 2000-164; 7-0).

This bird provided a first state record and enabled hundreds to catch up with this species, which is of regular occurrence in Alaska, but which is rare to exceedingly rare south and east of there. Birders from as far away as Indiana (at least) got to see the bird, as it was very reliable at a few locations: the Larimer County Landfill, usually in the mornings; Horseshoe Lake during much of the rest of the day; and at Lake Loveland, where it roosted. The latter two locations are in the city of Loveland. The CBRC hopes that a history of the event will be published in *JCFO* for posterity, though we have not gotten wind of such an effort to date.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL *Larus glaucescens* (8/4). One in first-basic plumage was in *Larimer* for at least the period 9 March - 2 April 2000 (BL, JMa, CLW v, SMI v; 2000-61; 7-0). This bird was seen at Horseshoe Lake and the Larimer County landfill. This March record makes the fourth of eight accepted records to fall in that exciting gull month. The other four are evenly distributed among January, April, May, and July (1981 - the first record).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* (20/15). A bird in first basic was at Arvada Res., *Jefferson*, 4 January 1998 (TL, NK; 2000-62; 7-0). The returning *gran dame* of Colorado Great Black-backs was documented from CCR 15 October - 12 November 2000 on its annual trip to PR to spend the winter, where it was documented on 16 December 2000 on the PR CBC (TL, LS†; 2000-63; 7-0). The first record had languished in Leukering's field notebook until 2000 when he noticed in the CBRC records files that he had never submitted it. Records are never too old to submit! Hint, hint!

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (24/12). One in juvenal graced JMR 19-22 January 2000 (CLW, RO; 2000-64; 7-0). One in definitive basic was present at Chatfield SP, *Douglas*, 25-28 2000 but was documented only on 27 October (KS, LS†; 2000-65; 7-0). The second record provides one of very few records for the state that does not involve a juvenile.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (11/11). The first documented record for *Weld* was of a single bird in New Raymer on 19 March 2000 (DW, JW; 2000-67; 7-0). The first for *Sedgwick* was provided by another single bird at Ovid on 1 April (LS, CLW†, TL; 2000-68; 7-0). Another county first, this one for *Kit Carson*, was garnered by Siebert when he found two at the Flagler City Park on 15 April 2000 (RS†; 2000-69; 7-0). Though the species has been reported from Lamar for a couple years, the bird near the Lamar Cemetery, *Prowers*, on 21 April 2000 (CLW†, TL; 2000-70; 7-0) was the first from that town that was documented and accepted. *Bent* recorded its first

when two were videotaped near mile marker 401 on US 50 east of Las Animas (CLW†, KH; 2000-71; 7-0). Finally, the last of the newly-accepted county records was the one from *Fremont* involving at least two birds in Cañon City for all of fall 2000. However, these birds were documented only on 17 December 2000 on the Penrose CBC (TL; 2000-73; 7-0).

So, that is five new county records out of six records accepted. A potential sixth county record, from *Rio Grande*, was tabled by the CBRC while it waits for the submission of photographs that apparently were taken (R. Ryder pers. comm.). The CBRC requests the assistance of all Colorado's birders in documenting the inexorable spread through the state of this exotic. Please see Semo et al. in this issue for details.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE *Zenaida asiatica* (24/17). One visited Versaw's back yard in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 6 May 2000 (AV; 2000-74; 7-0). Another single was seen and heard singing on 10 May 2000 in Campo, *Baca*, for a first local record (DO; 2000-75; 7-0). Though the reporter of the latter is no Bateman, the sketches provided made this an easy record to accept. The latter bird was, apparently, present through much of the summer at this location, but the CBRC received no further submissions.

INCA DOVE *Columbina inca* (12/12). At least two were present in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, from 27 February 2000 through the end of the year (SO, BL, DQ; 2000-76; 2000-76). A single bird was at Willow Creek Park in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 16 April 2000 (TL, CLW†; 2000-77; 7-0). The third record of the year was provided by a single bird in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 20-31 December 2000 (TM, LZ, TL, LS†; 2000-78; 7-0).

The Rocky Ford birds apparently nested successfully, as up to six birds were present from some point in summer through the CBC period. However, the CBRC has received no documentation of more than two birds, no documentation of their presence after 5 March 2000, and no documentation of nesting activity. The Ft. Collins bird was present into January 2001 and, apparently, after a long absence, returned in spring.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (14/1). After discussion at the meeting, the CBRC accepted the sighting of a Black-billed in the unlikely place of the *Grand* CR 1 crossing of the Blue River just south of Kremmling (TL; 2000-79; 4-3, 5-2). Interestingly, the only other West Slope report of the species comes from nearly the same location (Andrews and Righter 1992). This record is the only one of

- this species that has been submitted and accepted in the past decade.
- SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca* (9/2). One north of SH 14 between *Weld* CRs 97 & 99 was videotaped nicely during its stay, 4-6 February 2000 (BL, RH v, DM†; 2000-80; 7-0).
- BARRED OWL *Strix varia* (2/1). A pair was at the Colorado-Kansas border along the Cimarron River, *Baca*, on 20 January 2000 (CLW, BKP; 2000-81; 5-2, 5-2).

This record provides only the second for the state of this fairly sedentary and retiring species. The previous record involves the collection of an adult and eggs from a nest in Holyoke, *Phillips*, in March 1897. Andrews and Righter (1992) believed that, since the specimen (though we are unsure as to whether that means just the adult or also the egg set) was no longer extant, the record should be included on the state list. Leukering and Semo checked on the egg set at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (on 21 March 2002) and it is still present and is, apparently, a set of Barred Owl eggs. Spotted Owl is probably ruled out by the size of the eggs.

The two observers were trying to find owls in southwestern-most Kansas when they decided that since “Barred Owl had been collected in the area in 1992 (Cable et al. 1996)...to try to call one in” by giving a few Barred Owl calls. Two owls responded by flying in to a tree near them. Though the birds and the observers were in Kansas, both birds eventually flew “well into Colorado.”

The CBRC discussed this record at its meeting, trying to determine the possibilities that needed to be excluded to accept such an exceptional record. The main possibilities were that the birds were mis-identified Great Horned or Spotted owls. The description provided stated that the eyes were dark, but the harsh lighting that a strong flashlight in darkness provides was considered a possible cause of misconception as to the true eye color. Obviously, the two *Strix* owls and *Flammulated*, are the only dark-eyed owls to regularly occur in North America. Additionally, the wide-winged flight silhouette and the lack of ear tufts eliminated Great Horned. Thus, we were left with the possibilities of Barred and Spotted owls. Feeling that the presence of one Spotted Owl at this location would be exceptional, the presence of two seemed to be virtually impossible. It was felt important by many that Barred Owl ranges in Kansas much closer to the *Baca* location than does Spotted Owl in Colorado and that the species had been collected previously in Kansas very near to

the location. Additionally, the field marks detailed also ruled out Spotted Owl. Finally, Wood has had extensive experience with this species in the eastern U.S. (Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana) and that fact was considered important by many Committee members. In the end, the record was accepted at the meeting.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (5/5). The Paulsen residence north of Lamar in *Prowers* near Thurston Res. produced reports of a number of individuals of this species in September 2000. Present were at least two adult males on the 10th (MJ; 2000-82; 7-0) and an immature male from the 14th to the 17th (DF, JV v; 2000-83; 7-0). Additionally, a report of a female *Archilochus* from this site has been tabled pending comment by outside experts. Another female *Archilochus* was reported from the northeast corner of the state in fall 2000, but the CBRC received no report.

As Colorado's birders become more proficient at hummer identification and snoop around in more of the far-flung eastern corners of the state, we predict that Ruby-throats will be found to be regular migrants. Leukering has talked to multiple home-owners in far eastern towns (e.g., Springfield, *Baca*) that report having hummers in spring and fall at their feeders. I suspect that these birds are as likely to be out-of-range Ruby-throats (particularly the spring birds) as they are to be out-of-range Rufous or Broad-tails. Regardless, these birds are certainly worth a second look!

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (6/6). One was found along the Mace Trail in Pueblo Mountain Park, *Pueblo*, on 20 May 2000 (PH; 2000-85; 7-0). The reporter included a nice color sketch that made it easy for the Committee to determine that this first county record was of a male.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (15/3). A breeding pair at the Higbee cemetery, *Otero*, provided one of the most enjoyable events of the year, as the birds were readily observed for months (LZ, DER†v, JMa, DQ, LS, TM; 2000-87; 7-0). Leatherman (2001) should be consulted for further details on what was probably the first recorded successful breeding by the species in Colorado. The birds were first found on 26 March 2000 and the CBRC received documentation on occurrence through 13 August 2000, though only one document detailing occurrence after mid-April. As always, records of the "Red Flamehead" are much appreciated by the CBRC, though reporting of this species seems to have declined quite a bit, as the parenthetical numbers can attest (though wait until you see the plethora of reports submitted in 2001). The Committee would also like to take this

opportunity to correct a widespread misunderstanding on the spelling of this species' name. Despite the color being spelled with two "L"s, "Vermilion" in the bird name is, for some unknown reason, spelled with only one. Would that great Colorado bird historian, Bob Righter, have any insight into this problem?

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (15/10). An adult female graced Pickney Road east of Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 16 May 2000 (DSi; 2000-88; 7-0). *Pueblo* recorded another individual in 2000, with a female or young male along Little Burnt Mill Road on 1 July 2000 (PSS; 2000-89; 7-0). In a very different place, one was photographed on 26 July 2000 near Yampa, *Routt*, for a first county record (VD†; 2000-90; 7-0). This species can seemingly show up anywhere in the state and anytime from April to October (accepted records span 24 April to 5 October). Unfortunately, all three of these birds were typical – they were seen only by the finders on the original date. Very few records in Colorado have pertained to lingering birds.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (32/25). Five reports from 2000 were submitted to the CBRC in this circulation and all were accepted. The first was a silent adult 26 April at Bear Creek Regional Park, *El Paso* (AV; 2000-91; 7-0). It took 3.5 weeks before the next one, another silent bird, was found at CVCG on 20 May 2000 (LS; 2000-92; 7-0). The next day, one was singing at PPWG (KS; 2000-93; 7-0). On 12 June 2000, another singing bird was a surprise along the Purgatoire River east of Lorencito (TL; 2000-94; 7-0) as this bird provided a first county record for under-birded *Las Animas*. Schofield found her second of the year on 27 October at Chatfield SP on the *Jefferson* side of the S. Platte River (KS; 2000-95; 7-0).

The last individual, above, was very late, as there are only three later reports on record: one 30 October 1995 in Colorado City, *Pueblo*; one on 1 November 1991 at BLSP, and one on the incredible date of 13 November 1980 in Ft. Morgan, *Morgan*. Also interesting is that this species was apparently very rare in the state prior to the 1990s, but the CBRC has now accepted 25 reports since 1990. Additionally, a large percentage of the individuals found in Colorado still seem to get reported to the CBRC, unlike reports of many other similarly-rare (or common) eastern passerine vagrants (e.g., Worm-eating Warbler).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (28/20). Despite a large increase of records of Yellow-throated Vireos in the state since 1990, the only one found in 2000 was a short-staying, silent bird at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, on 4 May 2000 (DSc; 2000-96; 7-0).

*BELL'S VIREO *Vireo bellii*. The first record for the West Slope was found by

Faulkner and Levad while conducting a floating transect on the White River for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's bird-monitoring program. This bird was seen and heard singing for about 15 minutes on 13 June 2000 about ½-mile west of Kenney Res., *Rio Blanco* (DF, RLe; 2000-97; 7-0).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (8/7). One was along the Poudre River trail in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 9 September 2000 (DAL; 2000-100; 7-0). Another was found 20 September 2000 on the Paulsen property, *Prowers* (DAL; 2000-102; 7-0), while the finder was searching for Ruby-throated Hummingbird. And, finally, Leatherman got photos of one at the "Locust Grove" at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*, on 28 September 2000 (DAL†; 2000-103; 7-0). Please see the discussion about this species in Part III, below.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (24/11). One was at the LCC grove on 17 September 2000 (DAL; 2000-106; 7-0). Another was at Crystal Lake in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 1 October 2000 (MJ, BKP; 2000-107; 7-0). The third of the year was along the Poudre River trail in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 6 October 2000 (DAL; 2000-108; 7-0). The last of the year was found 8 October 2000 at the FLWE (MJ, VZ; 2000-109; 7-0). Note how many rare vireos Leatherman found in one fall!

CAROLINA WREN *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (23/12). The DeCesares videotaped a Carolina Wren at their residence in Greenwood Village, *Arapahoe*, during the period 19 December 1999 - 5 March 2000, with the bird still present as of the submission of documentation on the latter date (FD; 2000-113; 7-0). The CBRC thanks Hugh Kingery for submitting supporting documentation upon his review of the videotape. One was smartly videotaped (with some nice captures submitted) in the Poudre Canyon near LaPorte, *Larimer*, on 17 January 2000 (RH†; 2000-110; 7-0). Another was at Ovid, *Sedgwick*, from 25 March to at least 1 April 2000 with documentation supporting the occurrence only on the latter date (LS, JK; 2000-111; 7-0). The oddest record of the year was of a bird heard singing by Lambeth upon waking up one morning at his home in Grand Junction, *Mesa*, on 18 May 2000 (RLA; 2000-112; 7-0). Not only does this provide a first county record, but a first West Slope record, as well.

*WINTER WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. One was singing east of Brainard Lake, *Boulder*, on 21 June 2000 (LAG, MF; 2000-114; 5-2, 6-1). Another was singing in upper Endovalley, Rocky Mountain National Park, *Larimer*, on 1 July 2000 (WR; 2000-115; 6-1).

These two occurrences provide the first two summer records of Winter Wren in Colorado. The first bird was found on the Indian

Peaks summer count, the latter on an American Birding Association convention field trip. The *Boulder* bird was found prior to the date of documentation, but that date was not provided by the reporter. Interestingly, both birds were singing, as if on territory, and provided poor (2000-114) or no (2000-115) views, thus the reporters were forced to describe in words that wonderful, but complex, song the species sings. The second bird was felt to be singing the song of the eastern form of Winter Wren, not the faster, less musical song of the western birds. Though there was some internal disagreement, the CBRC felt that both observers did a good job in a difficult situation, with Russell's description of his bird's song being particularly apt.

VARIED THRUSH *Ixoreus naevius* (15/8). A female was present and seen by many at Jackson SP, *Morgan*, for at least the period of 9 January - 12 February 2000 though with details provided to the CBRC only for the period 9-11 January (DQ†, RO; 2000-116; 7-0). A second bird was along the St. Vrain Greenway in Longmont, *Boulder*, on 14 March 2000 (JY; 2000-117; 5-2, 4-3).

The second record caused heartburn in a number of Committee members, due partly to the lack of supplementary documents provided by other observers of the bird. If the species were at all an identification problem, it would probably have not have been accepted. The CBRC felt that it had to make a leap of faith that the bird was a thrush, as the details provided did not indicate that, as a short listing of pertinent field marks was all that was provided. However, since no one on the Committee could come up with a species with at all similar field marks, other than Siberian Accentor, the report was finally accepted at the annual meeting. The CBRC truly appreciates the time invested in documentation by submitting observers, but requests details additional to the two or three field marks required to identify the bird (see Wood et al. in prep.).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (33/16). A singing male was at the FLWE 28-29 April 2000 (RO; 2000-119; 7-0). Another was near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 16 May 2000 (DSi; 2000-120; 7-0). Still another was along the Arkansas River at the Goodnight Avenue river trail in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 20 May 2000 (MJ; 2000-121; 7-0). The first *Gunnison* record was provided by an individual at the Gunnison wastewater plant 25-27 August 2000 (JB; 2000-122; 7-0). The latter documentation provided very brief details, but the crude sketch illustrating the location and appearance of various important field marks was more than sufficient to enable the Committee to vote unanimously to accept the record. As mentioned in Wood et al. (in

prep.), even those with little or no artistic ability, such as the authors of this article, can make the CBRC's job of analysis of records much easier by providing a simple sketch illustrating the features seen.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (31/14). Incredibly, the only report of Golden-winged submitted from 2000 was from the same observer and location of the last Blue-winged, above! This first *Gunnison* record was provided by a male present on 25 August 2000 (JB; 2000-118; 7-0). Another sketch was provided by Berry, again making our job easy.

***TENNESSEE WARBLER** *Vermivora peregrina*. One very tardy immature peregrinated to the town of Ouray, *Ouray*, and was found there on 7 November 2000 (TL; 2000-123; 7-0). This bird was one of a large number of late and out-of-range birds found in that town in early November 2000 (Levad and Leukering 2001).

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Dendroica tigrina* (20/6). An immature male was found in Boulder, *Boulder*, and was present at least 15-16 November, but with details only reported on the latter date (TL, JV v, BK; 2000-124; 7-0).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca* (35/19). The first of a good showing of Blackburnians in 2000 was a singing male at the Environmental Learning Center in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 9 May 2000 (JMa; 2000-125; 7-0). The next was a female at CVCG on 20 May 2000 (LS; 2000-126; 7-0). The first of two fall records was provided by an immature female at Belmar Park in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 1-2 September 2000 (KS; 2000-128; 7-0). Finally, the latest was a laggard immature male near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 18 October 2000 (DSi; 2000-127; 7-0).

PRAIRIE WARBLER *Dendroica discolor* (18/12). A singing adult male was found at the "Wood Thrush Grove" on the southeast corner of CRs JJ & 16, *Bent*, on 14 May 2000 (MJ; 2000-129; 7-0). Another singing male was at TBSWA below the dam, 6-8 June 2000 (DAL, TL; 2000-130; 7-0), with submitted details covering the entire period.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Dendroica castanea* (32/8). An adult male provided Versaw a lovely surprise at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 14 May 2000 (AV; 2000-131; 7-0). A female at CVCG on 24 May 2000 (JF, CLW; 2000-132; 7-0) provided the only other report of 2000.

The tremendous increase in birder effort, interest, and knowledge that Colorado has experienced in the past decade has resulted in much larger numbers of various review species being found in the state, as evidenced by reports to COBIRDS and the seasonal reports

in this journal and in *North American Birds*. However, for many of these species, particularly eastern vagrants, the reporting of details to the CBRC has not kept pace and the number of accepted records in the past ten years does not, as it should, greatly outnumber the accepted records from previous decades.

The two numbers within the parentheses after the scientific name indicate that the number of reports of Bay-breasted Warblers submitted to and accepted by the CBRC has declined from that in previous years. One of the reasons for this is, undoubtedly, the low rate at which current observers submit documentation to the Committee. However, this species formerly was truly more numerous in the state and elsewhere. Bay-breasted Warbler is a spruce budworm specialist and its population cycles over long periods and with great absolute population size variation due to the vagaries of the population size of spruce budworm. The budworm, the larva of a tortricid moth (*Choristoneura fumiferana*), periodically undergoes incredibly rapid and extensive population outbreaks, causing foresters no end of heartburn. When these outbreaks happen, Bay-breasted Warbler numbers can increase tremendously (such as the 12-fold increase in numbers in one study in New Brunswick (Morris et al. 1958) and, thus, provide more birds available to become vagrants to Colorado. However, since 1952, there has been widespread spraying of spruce-fir forests in eastern Canada (Busby et al. 1991) that has caused a decrease in budworm outbreaks (Williams 1996).

Breeding Bird Survey data illustrate a slight increase in population prior to 1980 that “was probably related to the spruce-budworm outbreaks of the 1970s” (Williams 1996). Williams (1996) also states that the subsequent decrease “could be due to the lack of... outbreaks, perhaps caused by spraying programs and to changes in habitat due to cutting.” The beginnings of the CBRC saw the tail end of the last great Bay-breasted population surge, as illustrated by the number of records accepted by the Committee in each year since its inception in 1973: 1973-6, 1974-9, 1975-1, 1977-1, 1978-3, 1979-1, 1988-1, 1990-3, 1991-1, 1995-5, 1997-1, 1998-2, 2000-3. Interestingly, the only state breeding record occurred in 1978 in the midst of a minor upward blip in the trend that saw only six accepted records between 1975 and 1990.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (33/17). An adult male brightened the LCC on 22 April 2000 (MJ, JK; 2000-133; 7-0). Another was at the grove on the northeast corner of CRs JJ & 16, Bent, 7-8

October 2000, though documentation was submitted only for the second date (MJ, IS; 2000-134; 7-0). The last of the year was seen 9 October 2000 along the Monument Creek trail in Colorado Springs, *El Paso* (AV; 2000-135; 7-0).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus* (26/17). Of numerous individuals apparently found in 2000, the only submitted report was of a silent individual below the dam at Prewitt Res. in *Logan* (JMa; 2000-136; 7-0).

*OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapillus*. A singing male was tape-recorded by Potter at the Yampa River Preserve, *Routt*, on 2 June 2000 (KP; 2000-137; 7-0). Please see Potter (2001) for further details. One addendum: John Toolen told Leukering that he had found or obtained a dead Ovenbird at the same location about a decade earlier. He had it delivered to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, but we are currently unaware of that specimen's whereabouts.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (27/13). A visually-uncooperative, but very vocally-cooperative singing male at PPWG on 14 May 2000 (KS; 2000-138; 7-0) provided the only documented record of the year.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (19/12). An adult male was just below the dam at TBSWA on 4 May 2000 (CLW; 2000-139; 7-0). The only other one reported was another adult male at "Van's Grove" (the woodlot on the north side of HH Rd between Rds 17 & 18), *Bent* (CLW; 2000-140; 7-0). Unfortunately, no one submitted details on the long-staying bird at LCC in May 2000, despite being seen by numerous observers, though by none of these authors (darn it!).

*HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrina*. A singing male was at Aiken Canyon Preserve, *El Paso*, on 6 May 2000 (GC; 2000-141; 7-0).

*SUMMER Tanager *Piranga rubra*. An adult male enlivened the area below the dam at Prewitt Res. in *Logan* on 7 May 2000 (JMa; 2000-142; 7-0).

HEPATIC Tanager *Piranga flava* (16/10). An adult female was at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 14 May 2000 (DAL, CLW; 2000-143; 7-0). None of the other 2000 reports was submitted.

SCARLET Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (22/11). Four were found in the state in spring 2000 in a five-day period. An adult male visited the area below the dam at TBSWA on 16 May 2000 (CLW; 2000-144; 7-0). Another was along Dry Creek near Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, on 20 May 2000 (D&DB; 2000-145; 7-0) for a first county and San Luis Valley record. Also on 20 May, a female was found along the Arkansas River at the Goodnight Ave. river trail, *Pueblo* (MJ; 2000-146; 7-0). The fourth of the spring was an adult male at Willow Creek

Park in Lamar, *Prowers* (MJ, BKP; 2000-147; 7-0).

EASTERN TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (9/7). A male was found near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 6-16 November 2000 (DSj; 2000-148; 7-0).

The CBRC has shown willingness to accept fall and winter records of this very-rare-in-Colorado species, given decent views and, preferably, a bird giving typical call notes. However, the Committee's feelings are very different concerning late spring and summer birds. We believe that extensive introgression of Eastern Towhee genes into Spotted Towhee populations reaching into the northeastern part of the state makes for some very difficult situations. These birds should be meticulously described with good details on songs (if relevant) and calls.

*SAGE SPARROW *Amphispiza belli*. Though this species is reported along the Colorado Front Range in most springs, one of the few well-documented records there was provided by a bird at the Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch, *Jefferson*, 6-7 April 2000 (CLW†; 2000-149; 7-0).

*SAVANNAH SPARROW *Passerculus sandwichensis*. This is a common breeder and migrant in Colorado, but wintering in the state has not been well documented. Thus, a Savannah present through much of February 2000 in *Bent* is of considerable interest. Leatherman found the bird, 3-5 February 2000, in association with the Le Conte's Sparrows (see below) present near JMR that winter (DAL; 2000-150; 7-0); many others were able to see it in their treks to see the Le Conte's Sparrows.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii* (9/2). A relatively cooperative bird was a complete surprise at BJR 26-27 September 2000 (MJ, LS; 2000-153; 7-0), though details were submitted only from the sightings on the 26th. One spring 2000 report from *Baca* was held for later circulation awaiting additional documentations.

As Baird's Sparrow breeds to the north of the state and winters to the south of Colorado, it is, undoubtedly, of regular occurrence in migration. However, the birding habits of Colorado's birders mostly preclude our chances of finding the species, except in serendipitous events such as the BJR sighting, above. As can be seen by the parenthetical numbers, we have found very few Baird's Sparrows in the past decade. There have been some recent attempts to find this species in spring on the eastern plains with some success. Probably the best chances to find the species is by getting a number of observers together to search likely habitat on the plains in late April through much of May and again in fall, probably from mid-September

to early October. Since Baird's prefers medium-height, but patchy, grass (T. Leukering pers. obs., C. Wood pers. obs.), migrants would have a lot of choices in eastern Colorado. Baird's Sparrows are like most other nocturnal migrants in that if there is no preferred habitat available at the end of a nocturnal flight, they will utilize whatever is available and could be found in some seemingly odd places.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (9/6). A largish group of Le Conte's was found wintering in a sedge-grass marsh north of JMR west of CR 16, *Bent*, 3 February to at least 11 March 2000 (DAL†, PG, DQ†, CLW; 2000-154; 7-0). The minimum number estimated at the site was four, by the original observer, but careful estimates ranged up to nine! This site also supported a couple Swamp Sparrows, making it a real sparrow Mecca. We congratulate Leatherman and Quesenberry for obtaining such excellent photos to make the Committee's decision a no-brainer.

*RED FOX SPARROW *Passerella iliaca iliaca/zaboria*. One at Ouray, *Ouray*, 6-8 November 2000 provided an exciting first West Slope record (TL; 2000-155; 7-0).

While this form has always been considered a quasi-review species in Colorado, in anticipation of a future split of what is currently considered Fox Sparrow, the CBRC is formalizing the review status of Red Fox Sparrow (Semo et al. in prep.) - that is, the reddish birds whose breeding range encompasses the Canadian taiga part of the complex's whole breeding range. In addition, the Committee would appreciate reports on any Fox Sparrows on the eastern plains and/or out-of-season and/or oddly-plumaged, as the split that may happen could create more than just two species and we would like to get ahead of the curve on this one.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (14/8). Faulkner monopolized the finding of this species in Colorado in 2000, digging up both individuals: an adult at the former Colorado State University research station on Comanche National Grassland near Pritchett, *Baca*, on 30 April (DF; 2000-156; 7-0) and an immature at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory office at BLSP on 9 October (DF; 2000-157; 7-0). The latter bird was present until at least 12 October.

*ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. An odd bird visiting the feeders of Sandi and Ed Ziegler in December 2000 turned out to be an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak (EZ†, SZ; 2000-158; 7-0). The season is odd enough, but the feeders were some 10+ miles south of Como, *Park*! The Grosbeak was present from 1 December until at least Christmas and a photograph of the bird was published in

the January 2001 issue of *JCFO* (page 16).

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (20/14). What was probably a returning individual was in the *Las Animas* part of Cottonwood Canyon on 1 June 1999 (TL; 2000-159; 7-0). Another adult male was at the Lake Hasty campground, *Bent*, on 7 May 2000 (MJ; 2000-160; 7-0). The oddest Painted Bunting record of the year was provided by an adult male at the US Forest Service office in Silverthorne, *Summit*, 28 April - 5 May 2000 (SMi†; 2000-161; 7-0). The latter report provides the first county record and one of very few in Colorado away from the eastern plains and the Front Range foothill edge.

The Cottonwood Canyon bird had been reported in May of 1999, but the CBRC received no documentation from that report. Additionally, 1999 was about the sixth consecutive year that a single male Painted Bunting had been reported from the location, though it was not documented to the Committee in either 1996 or 1997 (having been documented in 1994, 1995, 1998, and 1999).

Part II. RECORDS PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*. A bird seen and heard well in Pueblo, *Pueblo* (MJ; 2000-165; 5-2, 6-1), was well-described by the reporter and represents the first record of the species accepted by the CBRC. Unfortunately, the bird was seen by only one birder, thus cannot currently be considered as accepted to the Colorado list (see discussion in the introduction).

PART III. RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO QUESTIONABLE IDENTIFICATION

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor*. One was reported from near Branson, *Las Animas*, on 5 September 2000 (2000-12; 2-5). Unfortunately, the few details provided by the experienced observer did not permit the CBRC to determine that the bird was correctly identified, particularly not eliminating the more-expected Great Blue Heron or a partial albino Little Blue Heron.

RUFFED GROUSE *Bonasa umbellus*. Though the observers provided extensive details of the sighting, there was a number of questionable aspects concerning the report of a "male" with chicks near Drake, *Larimer*, on 28 June 2000 (2000-28; 0-7). Firstly, males of most grouse species, including Ruffed, have nothing to do with females or young other than providing half the genetic material of the young, so a male consorting with a brood would be quite odd. Secondly, the typical behavior of a female Ruffed Grouse with a brood upon being

approached by humans, is to go into an incredibly impressive distraction display, not to fly to a nearby low tree and watch the proceedings. The described behaviors and plumage characters are typical of female Blue Grouse which are obviously much more likely in the locality than are Ruffed Grouse, which, to date, has only been found in the state at Hoy Mountain in extreme western *Moffat*.

BLACK RAIL *Laterallus jamaicensis*. An individual was reported at Manitou Lake, *Teller*, on 11 August 2000(2000-29; 4-3, 0-7), being seen in the presence of adults of both Sora and Virginia Rail. Black Rail is a denizen in Colorado of marshes in the Arkansas River valley, mostly in *Otero* and *Bent*, thus the CBRC was very intrigued by a report in montane *Teller*. The reporter provided numerous details on the sighting and on the bird and stated that the bird was not a downy chick. The observer apparently had very good looks at the bird, yet did not mention eye or leg colors, which would have been definitive and should certainly have been observable, considering the plumage details that were provided. Some on the Committee felt that the plumage features described could also have been matched by a downy young of either Sora or Virginia Rail molting into juvenal plumage. In the second round, the CBRC was unanimous that the observation, while very suggestive, was not definitive enough for such an odd record (a potential first montane record in Colorado).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus graellsii*. Despite lengthy observation by the reporter and extensive discussion by the Committee, a report of an adult at Boulder Reservoir, *Boulder*, on 24 November 2000 was not accepted by the CBRC (2000-58; 5-2, 4-3). Many felt that the description, while suggestive, was not definitive, particularly as the report did not discuss how California Gull was eliminated. This factor, alone, was considered critical as that is the species that, in many situations in Colorado, is most similar to Lesser Black-backed.

GREAT GRAY OWL *Strix nebulosa*. A report of an individual near Rabbit Mountain, *Boulder*, on the Eagle Wind Trail on 27 August 2000 was not accepted (2000-167; 0-7). Though many features of Great Gray were described (yellow eyes, "white bars" at bottom of face, and no "ears"), these features are also consistent with the plumage of a juvenile Great Horned Owl, which would be much likelier on that date and in that location. Additionally, some features described were inconsistent with the identification (e.g., "sienna brown tones and off-white colors on top"). Though Great Gray Owl is a potential vagrant to the state as it has been found in southwestern Wyoming, August in *Boulder* is probably unlikely.

*BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus alexandri*. A very late hummingbird at Redlands, *Mesa*, 22 October -10 December 2000 was probably a member of this species (2000-84; 3-4) and as such would have provided a state record-late date. Unfortunately, the reporter provided very few plumage or structure details and these were limited to "partial gorget on his right side." The CBRC had no choice but to not accept this report, despite being submitted by a very experienced hummingbird fanatic.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*. An immature Empie fairly well described from LCC on 6 October 2000 (2000-166; 0-7) was not accepted as a Yellow-bellied. The observer did a good job in determining the age of the bird by observing buffy wingbars typical of juvenile *Empidonax*. Unfortunately, the extensive description provided a combination of field marks not usually shown by this species in this plumage. The bird was described as having a "yellow-green throat" which, if the bird had been an adult, would have been very suggestive of Yellow-bellied. However, young-of-the-year Yellow-bellies tend to have dull whitish-buff throats and are generally not the "lime green" bird that was described. Additionally, a number of other supporting features was not noted, particularly the primary projection, which would have helped eliminate either of the two "Western" Flycatchers (Cordilleran and Pacific-slope). Finally, the CBRC tends to be quite a bit more conservative when dealing with a potential first state record, particularly of individuals of a notoriously difficult genus such as *Empidonax*. While the entire CBRC membership believes that this species is a likely visitor to Colorado, acceptance will require exhaustive details on all aspects of the bird's plumage and structure.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. The report of an individual near Palmer Lake, *El Paso*, on 31 July 2000 (2000-86; 5-2, 4-3) made for some lively Committee discussion. The bird sang a number of times from a Mountain Mahogany- and Gambel's Oak-covered hillside, habitat typical of Dusky Flycatcher. After two rounds without resolution, the CBRC finally decided to not accept the report. Though the observer is very experienced with this and all similar Empies, the Committee had a couple of concerns. The first was that the bird was not seen, so no plumage features were described to either pigeonhole the bird to at least "Traill's" Flycatcher (Alder or Willow) or to eliminate congeners of more likely occurrence, particularly Dusky Flycatcher. Secondly, members felt that the fact that many *Empidonax* produce some very odd songs in late summer made even the excellent song description suspect. Unfortunately, as

the observer reported, the bird did not call, which would have provided very definitive evidence.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*. One individual reported from the LCC on 17 September 2000 was not accepted in the second round (2000-101; 3-4, 0-7). The CBRC had an extensive discussion about all three reports of Blue-headed Vireo (of seven submitted) that were brought to the Committee meeting. These discussions could result in the re-review of all past Blue-headed records, as the Committee feels that the extreme similarity of some Cassin's Vireo plumages to that of Blue-headed makes identification in the field more difficult than most realize. The chief instigator of this discussion was a bird caught and banded at the RMBO banding station at Barr Lake, Adams, in September of 2001. Both Leukering and Wood, who saw the bird in hand, agreed that it appeared very similar in many respects to Blue-headed but that there was a number of features that were just not quite right and that it was a Cassin's. The Committee was able to view pictures of this bird in comparison to pictures of a true Blue-headed and see what the differences were but also how similar the individual was to the Blue-headed.

With this experience under its belt, the CBRC proceeded to not accept all of the records before them: one at Valco Ponds SWA, Pueblo, on 19 May 2000 (2000-98; 6-1, 4-3); one at Mineral Palace Park, Pueblo, on 22 August 2000 (2000-99; 6-1, 3-4); and one at LCC 16-17 September 2000 (2000-104; 5-2, 4-3). Features of the reports that caused non-acceptance of the various records include, but are not necessarily limited to, lack of firm notation of precise head pattern, particularly throat/auricular contrast and crown/nape/back contrast and the lack of details on the brightness and extent of the pale edge to the outer web of the outermost rectrix.

One report also reported a tentative identification of the Appalachian race, *alticola*. This form is less contrasty than is nominate *solitarius*, so bright, contrasty Cassin's Vireos would even more closely approach that taxon in appearance. Combined with the low likelihood of this form's occurrence in the West, the identification of *alticola* in the state will remain suspect.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii*. The most interesting report of the 2000 circulation was of a single Baird's Sparrow seen near Colorado National Monument, Mesa, on 27 May 2000 (2000-152; 2-5, 4-3). The observers were, unfortunately, new to documenting birds and were hard-pressed to convince the Committee of the correctness of their

identification. However, due to comments of a couple Committee members in the first round, the Chair sent the report around for a second round where it garnered additional support. However, at the CBRC meeting, members felt that the report just did not have enough details described in unambiguous terms to accept the report of such an apparently rare species on the “wrong” side of the state. The Committee, though, would like to commend the observers for making the valiant effort at documenting a very difficult species in a very odd situation. As one member commented in the first round, “I certainly would not want my first documentation to be of such a difficult species as Baird’s Sparrow!”

*BALTIMORE ORIOLE *Icterus galbula*. An immature female described from a Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, backyard was heard and, apparently, photographed (2000-162; 1-6). Unfortunately, the CBRC did not receive the photographs and the description did not eliminate Bullock’s. The breast was described as orange, which is certainly suggestive of Baltimore, but many other details were not provided, particularly the color of the belly, the back pattern, head color and pattern, and greater coverts pattern and color. The bird was heard to call once and the observer felt that the vocalization was “more like Balt[imore].” However, vocalizations of hybrid Baltimore x Bullock’s Orioles could match either parental species and these hybrids must be considered when looking at an out-of-range or out-of-season oriole or, on the eastern plains, any oriole. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to suggest that observers of winter orioles in Colorado consider Streak-backed. This Mexican species does occasionally disperse north for the winter and is of somewhat regular occurrence in Arizona at that season. In addition, there is a recent winter record of an immature Streak-backed found dead in WISCONSIN!

PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus*. A brown-plumaged bird (female or immature male) was reported from Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 6 February 2000 (2000-163; 6-1, 4-3). This report, submitted by an experienced and respected birder, is a good example of how the CBRC often works. The report’s initial circulation went through the Committee with only one dissenting vote, yet the Chair felt that the comments (on seemingly contra-indicating features) from that dissenting voter might sway other members, so sent the report around, again. In the second round, members paid more specific attention to the features in the report and the observation lost support. At the Committee meeting, the members felt that, while the bird reported was almost certainly a Purple Finch, the details

provided were ambiguous and the CBRC declined to accept it.

The following exposition is respectfully submitted as a learning experience to readers on the pitfalls to avoid in documentation and an explanation to the reporter as to the CBRC's decision. The Committee hopes that it is not taken negatively. Specific features that concerned the Committee were the description of the head pattern, the description of the bill, and the apparent reliance on the identification value of the bird's unstreaked undertail coverts. The description of "white stripes on face" caused the Committee some confusion as to what, exactly, the phrase meant. Members felt that even if it was understood what was meant (the superciliary and malar stripes, *sensu* Sibley 2000), the description only compared the prominence of them to that on House Finches. It was felt that this comparison was inadequate, as most any species would have more prominent supercilia than do female House Finches. The bill description was difficult to comprehend and seemed to point more toward Cassin's Finch than to Purple. Finally, the Committee felt that too much reliance is placed by most observers on the pattern of the undertail coverts in Purple and Cassin's finches (streaked and unstreaked, respectively). Many members believe that the variation inherent in this feature in both species, particularly that Purple can show very faint streaks on these feathers that might not be visible in the field, makes the character an indicator but not a firm identifier of these two species. Finally, while the CBRC in no way requires submission of photographs, video captures, or video of individual birds to accept records as valid, these materials make the Committee's job much easier and enables the CBRC to work around the ambiguous aspects of most descriptions.

PART IV. RECORDS TABLED FOR LATER ACTION

- POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One juvenile at Standley Lake, Jefferson, 31 October 1999 (2000-42); one adult at PR on 29 June 2000 (2000-43); one adult at Jackson Res., Morgan, 30 September - 1 October 2000 (2000-44); and one adult at Chatfield Res., Douglas/Jefferson, 8-12 October 2000 (2000-45).
- PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One juvenile at Chatfield Res., Douglas/Jefferson, 11-12 October 2000 (2000-46).
- ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. Two juveniles at Chatfield Res., Douglas, 9 October 2000 (2000-66).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Two at Monte Vista, Rio Grande, 11 August 2000 (2000-72).

Archilochus HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus* sp. One immature female near Thurston Res., *Prowers*, 20 September 2000 (2000-168).

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii*. Two or three at Comanche National Grassland, *Baca*, 22 April 2000 (2000-151).

Contributing Observers

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This adult Long-tailed Jaeger was observed at Standley Lake, Jefferson County, 25-27 Aug, 2001. Photo by Andrew Spencer.