

The 62nd Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

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Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

Introduction

This 62nd report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 115 reports submitted by 37 observers and documenting 89 occurrences of 63 species (or recognizable forms) from the period February 2010 to August 2011. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted records received a final 7-0 or 6-1 vote to accept. Each report that was not accepted received five or fewer votes to accept.

Highlights of this report include second state records for Green Violetear and Pacific Wren, third state records for Tufted Duck, Crested Caracara, and Purple Gallinule, a fourth state record for Pyrrhuloxia, and multiple West Slope records including Common Black-Hawk, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Worm-eating Warbler, and Cassin's Sparrow. With publication of this report, the state list remains at 493 species.

Committee members voting on these reports were Coen Dexter, John Drummond, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Bill Schmoker, Larry Semo, David Silverman, and Glenn Walbek.

Committee Functions

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, including both the main list (http://www.cfobirds.org/records/review_list.htm) and the conditional lists (Semo et al. 2002; <http://www.cfobirds.org/records/reports.htm>), and for reports of species with no prior accepted record in Colorado. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (<http://www.cfobirds.org/CBRC/login.php>).

Report Format

The organization and style of this report follow those of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. If present, the numbers in parentheses following a species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado, followed by the number of accepted records during the most recent full 10-year time period (2002–2011). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a spe-

cies' continuance on or removal from the statewide Main Review List (Semo et al. 2002).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 52nd Supplement (Chesser et al. 2011). Each record presents as much of the following information as we have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, the second and third rounds (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are underlined, if known, and are presented first if that person (or people) contributed documentation; additional contributors' initials follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined and presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials; initials of those who submitted video are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "v" (*v*); and those who submitted audio spectrograms or recordings are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "s" (*s*). Thus, the parenthetical expression "(JD *v*, RA †, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 4-3, 6-1)" means: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and, as the finder, is first in the list of those who submitted details, with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so is listed second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2001-36; and in the two rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four "accept" and three "do not accept" votes, while the second-round vote was 6-1 in favor of accepting the report. The decision on most reports is completed 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. We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans when documentations do not provide such. The CBRC encourages observers to document the first and final dates on which a rare species was seen, as that provides historical evidence of the true extent of its stay.

For this report, abbreviations are used for Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Crow Valley Campground (CVCG), Highway (Hwy.), Reservoir (Res.), State Park (SP), State Wildlife Area (SWA), and Weld County Road (WCR).

*Yellow-crowned
Night-Heron, Glen-
mere Park, Weld
County, 12 June
2011. Photo by
Doug Faulkner*



*Crested Caracara,
near Hasty, Bent
County, 7 July
2011. Photo by
Joey Kellner*

*Purple Gallinule,
Country Club Hills,
Logan County, 7
June 2011. Photo
by Mack Hitch*





Eastern Wood-Pewee, Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, 15 May 2011. Photo by Bill Maynard

Blackburnian Warbler, Two Buttes SWA, Baca County, 7 May 2011. Photo by Joe Roller



Hepatic Tanager, near Kim, Las Animas County, 5 June 2011. Photo by John Drummond

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Tufted Duck – *Aythya fuligula* (3/1). A female-plumaged bird with a prominent tuft captivated birders for hours during its brief one-day stay at Golden Ponds, *Boulder*, 17 January 2011 (DF†, PG†, BM†, NP, BS†, SM; 2011-18; 7-0). The length of the bird's tuft prompted many birders to conclude that it was an immature male; however, European birders who reviewed photos considered it to be an adult female. Colorado's previous two records were both of adult males in alternate plumage.

Red-throated Loon – *Gavia stellata* (45/15). A stunning individual in alternate plumage graced Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*, 19 April 2011 (CT; 2011-35; 7-0). This represents the eighth spring record and only the third April record of this predominantly late fall visitor to the state.

Horned Grebe – *Podiceps auritus*. Remarkably finishing a first county record, two Horned Grebes were observed at Smith Res., *Costilla*, 28 March 2011 (TF; 2011-23; 7-0).

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (21/8). The Committee accepted three records of this species observed in spring and summer 2011. An immature cormorant lingered at the Cherry Creek SP marina, *Arapahoe*, at least 8-15 April (NB†,

JD†, NP; 2011-25; 7-0). An adult in non-breeding plumage was observed at the High Plains Sportsman Club pond near Ordway, *Crowley*, 24 June 2011 (BKa; 2011-94; 7-0). A pond adjacent to Prewitt Res., *Washington*, hosted a single immature Neotropic Cormorant on 10 July and two immature cormorants on 6 August (SM†; 2011-100; 7-0).

Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentalis* (21/9). A lucky observer watched an adult gliding onto a sewage lagoon at Kit Carson, *Cheyenne*, 11 May 2011, where it stayed for about 15 minutes before taking off (BKa; 2011-46; 7-0).

Reddish Egret – *Egretta rufescens* (12/6). Present for a week, a white-morph adult was documented for Huerfano Res., *Pueblo*, 14–20 May 2011 (DS, BKa, BKP v; 2011-52; 7-0), establishing the fourth state record of the white-morph form and the twelfth record of the species. Notably, the race



Tufted Duck, Golden Ponds, Boulder County, 17 January 2011. Photo by Doug Faulkner

from western Mexico (*dickeyi*) has no white morph (E. Palacios, in litt.), suggesting that at least Colorado's four white-morph Reddish Egrets, and possibly most or all of the rest, are from Gulf of Mexico populations (subspecies *rufescens*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Nyctanassa violacea* (25/10). One attended a nest at Glenmere Park in Greeley, *Weld*, during the summer of 2011, possibly paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron. Unfortunately, the CBRC received documentation only for the dates of 10–12 June 2011 (DF†, BKa, SM†; 2011-87; 7-0). The CBRC asks for additional documentation pertaining to this rare event of a nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Colorado.

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus* (66/39). The Committee accepted documentations for five occurrences of seven Glossy Ibis in spring 2011. *La Plata* had its fifth record in six years, and its sixth overall, with documentation of two adults observed at Pastorius Res., 21 April (JBT; 2011-36; 7-0). *Weld*, and particularly the Beebe Draw and Greeley area, appears to be a good place to find this species in spring, as the remaining four accepted occurrences in this circulation were from that area: two adults at Beebe Draw, 26 May (SM†; 2011-62; 6-1); one adult at Beebe Draw, 2 June (SM†; 2011-78; 7-0); one adult along Hwy 263 east of Greeley, 11 June (SM; 2011-88; 6-1); and one adult along WCR 54 near Spanish Village, 18 June (SM; 2011-91; 7-0).

Common Black-Hawk – *Buteo galus anthracinus* (10/6). An adult was observed for about 25 minutes soaring

over Confluence Park, *Delta*, 23 June 2011 (MQ†; 2011-93; 7-0). Of Colorado's ten records, half are from the West Slope – one each for *La Plata*, *Mesa*, and *Montrose*, and two for *Delta*. All of the West Slope records have occurred since 2001.

Red-tailed Hawk (Krider's) – *Buteo jamaicensis krideri*. An adult showing classic features for this subspecies—particularly the white tail base, according to an outside expert's opinion—was photographed near Union Res., *Weld*, 28 March 2011 (SM†; 2011-24; 7-0).

Crested Caracara – *Caracara cheriway* (3/2). Only nine months after Colorado's single-observer second state record in *Chaffee* in October 2010, the state's birders were treated to a longer visit by an adult on private land near Hasty, *Bent*, 7–9 July 2011 (DF, PG†, JK†, BM†, BKP†, DN; 2011-98; 7-0). There has been a dramatic increase in Crested Caracara vagrancy since the late 1980s, stretching from Canada's Maritime Provinces to the Pacific Coast of North America, so additional records from Colorado are to be expected (Brinkley and Lehman 2003, San Miguel and McGrath 2005, Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008).

Purple Gallinule – *Porphyrio martinica* (3/2). An adult was photographed at a pond in the Country Club Hills area near Sterling, *Logan*, 7 June 2011 (MHi†; 2011-83; 7-0). The reporting observer checked the pond three times the following day without refinding the gallinule. The state's previous two records (in *La Plata* and *Larimer*) were first discovered in August, but only the cooperative *Larimer* bird stayed for

more than a couple days (27 August – 10 September 2002).

Snowy Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Documentation of an adult male photographed at Smith Res. on 4 June 2011 constitutes the first record for *Costilla* (SM†; 2011-80; 7-0).

Pectoral Sandpiper – *Calidris melanotos*. Establishing a first county record, an adult was carefully documented at San Luis Lake, *Alamosa*, on the unusually early date of 27 March 2011 (TF; 2011-21; 7-0).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Limnodromus griseus*. Adults were documented from two locations on the same date of 1 May 2011. An adult was photographed at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe* (BKO†; 2011-42; 7-0), while another three adults were at Lake Holbrook, *Otero* (SM; 2011-43; 7-0).

Black-legged Kittiwake – *Rissa tridactyla* (45/19). A long-staying first-cycle individual resided at Windsor Lake, *Weld*, from 16 April through 26 May 2011 (SM†, CW; 2011-16; 7-0). A second first-cycle kittiwake visited Windsor Lake, where the two were photographed together, on the single date of 5 May 2011 (SM†; 2011-33; 7-0).

Laughing Gull – *Leucophaeus atricilla* (42/15). A first-cycle Laughing Gull was observed at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on the single date of 9 May 2011 (BKP†; 2011-45; 7-0).

Greater Roadrunner – *Geococcyx californianus*. A first for *Morgan*, one was observed at Jackson Res., 10 July 2011 (SM; 2011-99; 7-0). The only other northeastern Colorado report is of one near Peetz, *Logan*, 15 July 1946 (Bailey and Niedrach 1965).

Lesser Nighthawk – *Chordeiles acu-*

tipennis (25/10). The third record for the Nucla, *Montrose*, area was provided by a male and a female observed at the sewage lagoons one mile west of town on multiple occasions from 30 May to 16 August 2010 (CD; 2011-2; 7-0). These lagoons appear to be a reliable location for the species, as it has been the site of each of the three Nucla records, all since 2006.

Green Violetear – *Colibri thalassinus* (2/1). In 2004, the CBRC reviewed documentation for a Magnificent Hummingbird that had visited feeders at a private residence in Conifer, *Jefferson*, from 12 September to 4 October 2003. Several Committee members commented that the photos included with the documentation did not support the reported species, but were of a Green Violetear. The CBRC voted 0-7 to not accept the documentation as the reported species (2003-7; 0-7). For reasons unknown to this Chair, the report was not re-circulated as a Green Violetear despite majority support for the identification from the CBRC at that time. The question about the status of the documentation surfaced in January 2012 when a co-author of an upcoming book on rare birds in North America inquired about the report. The Chair solicited outside expert opinion and the CBRC reviewed the original documentation as a Green Violetear. The current CBRC has accepted the report as pertaining to that species (BB†, MK, PW, RP; 2003-7 as amended by Chair to Green Violetear; 6-1), the state's second record.

Blue-throated Hummingbird – *Lampornis clemenciae* (13/1). A female was a one-day visitor at a private resi-

dence in No Name, *Garfield*, 30 June 2010 (TM; 2011-1; 7-0), representing a first for the county and Colorado's first since 2001.

Magnificent Hummingbird – *Eugenes fulgens* (17/10). A female was at Tunnel Campground, Roosevelt NF, *Larimer*, 21-24 July 2011 (BS†, CK; 2011-103; 7-0). This is also the location of an adult female in 2010 (2010-91) and an adult male in 2002 (2002-113).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – *Archilochus colubris* (13/8). Representing a first for *Huerfano*, an adult male visited feeders at a private residence near La Veta, 12-13 May 2011 (PN†, BKP†; 2011-50; 7-0).

Red-headed Woodpecker – *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Two adults of this striking species were discovered on the West Slope in June 2011. The first was near Carbondale, *Garfield*, on the single date of 5 June 2011 (TM; 2011-82; 7-0). The second adult was found during Breeding Bird Atlas work on private property in the Escalante Forks area, *Mesa*, 14 June 2011 (MHe; 2011-89; 7-0). Righter et al. (2004) consider the species to be a rare non-breeding visitor to western Colorado, with approximately a dozen reports in late spring and early summer.

Red-bellied Woodpecker – *Melanerpes carolinus*. Rare along the Front Range, one was photographed at a private residence north of Lyons, *Larimer*, 28 May 2011 (MS†, LL; 2011-68; 7-0).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens* (24/8). A singing individual was observed at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, 15-16 May 2011 (BM†, BKP†; 2011-53; 7-0).

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum* (35/23). A male sang and foraged in the willows at a small pond along Boulder Creek on the University of Colorado's East Campus, *Boulder*, 29 May 2011 (BS†, CN; 2011-66; 7-0). Two individuals were observed at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, 29 May 2011, approximately a half mile apart (SM; 2010-70; 7-0) and (SM; 2010-71; 6-1).

Gray Flycatcher – *Empidonax wrightii*. Rarely reported in far eastern Colorado, one was at Van's Grove, *Bent*, 1 May 2011 (SM†; 2011-41; 7-0).

Vermilion Flycatcher – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (43/21). A first for *Montrose*, an adult female was just west of Nucla, 23 April 2011 (CD; 2011-39; 7-0). A singing adult male first found in late May at the Thompson Ranch near Limon, *Lincoln*, was documented for 8-9 June 2011 (DF†, TL†, MP; 2011-85; 7-0).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (37/19). An adult male remained several days near Marston Res., *Denver/Jefferson*, 13-16 May 2011 (MHe; 2011-51; 7-0). This is the first record for *Denver* and the third for *Jefferson*.

Philadelphia Vireo – *Vireo philadelphicus* (38/13). An adult captured and banded at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory banding station at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 12 May 2011 was observed through 26 May (BM†, BKP†, JD, NG; 2011-49; 7-0).

Purple Martin – *Progne subis*. Very rare anywhere along the Front Range, an adult male and a female were observed flying over the Kodak SWA near Windsor, *Weld*, 26 May 2011 (SM; 2011-63; 7-0). Male Purple Martins

are very difficult to assign to race, but the female appeared to be of one of the western North American races, not the eastern race *subis*.

Pacific Wren – *Troglodytes pacificus* (2/2). Representing Colorado's second record, one was in Greenhorn Meadows Park, Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 27 December 2010 (DS; 2010-179; 7-0), and possibly later.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Catharus minimus* (52/18). Single thrushes were documented for Fox Ranch, *Yuma*, 29 May 2011 (TF; 2011-67; 7-0) and Van's Grove, *Bent*, 4 June 2011 (SM, TL; 2011-79; 7-0).

Wood Thrush – *Hylocichla mustelina* (35/18). One was at the Thompson Ranch near Limon, *Lincoln*, 19–20 May 2011 (KD; 2011-74; 7-0). Another serenaded a birder along Greenhorn Creek in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 24 May 2011 (DS; 2011-60; 7-0).

Curve-billed Thrasher – *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Furnishing the West Slope's second record and a first for *Pitkin*, one stayed most of the winter at a private residence along the Crystal River near Carbondale, where it was documented for the period from 5 December 2010 through 1 April 2011 (TM†, M&PP; 2010-161; 7-0). This individual is referable to the subspecies *palmeri*, which occurs in the southwestern U.S., due to the grayish basal coloration on the throat and breast not contrasting with the grayish breast spots (Pyle 1997). Curve-billed Thrashers east of Arizona, subspecies *oberholseri*, have a whitish basal coloration that contrasts with the dark gray breast spots. While these subspecies intergrade in southeastern Arizona where their ranges meet and

a hybrid cannot be entirely ruled out, the *Pitkin* individual is phenotypically similar to *palmeri*. This represents the second state record for *palmeri*, the first pertaining to one at Grand Junction, *Mesa*, on 9 June 2004 (2004-85).

Phainopepla – *Phainopepla nitens* (11/2). Colorado's eleventh "Phaino" was found during Breeding Bird Atlas work in Cottonwood Canyon, 16 June 2011 (RS†; 2011-90; 7-0). Not only did the observer see a great bird for the state, he also saw it in both *Las Animas* and *Baca* as the bird flew across the county line at this popular birding locale.

Worm-eating Warbler – *Helminthosorus vermivorum*. Very rare on the West Slope and providing the first record for *Mesa*, a singing Worm-eating Warbler was found during the CFO annual convention along the Palisade River Trail in Palisade, *Mesa*, 21 May 2011 (RM, DL; 2011-58; 7-0).

Black-and-white Warbler – *Mniotilta varia*. A singing male was a surprising find during Breeding Bird Atlas work southwest of Saguache, *Saguache*, 3 July 2011 (LW; 2011-95; 7-0). The mid-summer date suggests that this individual was neither a late spring nor an early fall migrant, although it clearly represents a first county record.

Mourning Warbler – *Geothlypis philadelphia* (29/9). Representing the first record for *Fremont*, an adult male was photographed along the Cañon City Riverwalk, 21 May 2011 (BKP†, KC; 2011-57; 7-0).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Setophaga castanea* (44/11). A minor fallout of the species appears to have occurred along the lower Front Range in late

May 2011. The CBRC accepted three documentations for this species, all of individual adult males: near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 27 May (DS, BKP†; 2011-65; 7-0); at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, 28–29 May (BM†; 2011-15; 7-0); and again at Chico Basin on the *El Paso* side, 28 May (BM†, LE; 2011-69; 7-0).

Blackburnian Warbler – *Setophaga fusca* (51/15). A male was photographed at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*, 7 May 2011 (RO†, CN; 2011-44; 7-0). Another male was found along Boulder Creek on the University of Colorado's East Campus, *Boulder*, 25 May 2011 (MB, BKa; 2011-61; 7-0).

Pine Warbler – *Setophaga pinus* (40/22). Of Colorado's rare warbler species, Pine Warbler may be one of the most likely to occur in winter. Colorado's 40th record, and the species' 17th record from winter (December – March), is represented by an immature male photographed along the Bluff Trail in Cañon City, *Fremont*, 17 February 2011 (JD†; 2011-19; 7-0).

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Setophaga dominica* (38/13). Included in the list of rarities found along Boulder Creek on the University of Colorado's East Campus, *Boulder*, in 2011 was a male of this species, 22–24 April (BKa, PG; 2011-37; 7-0).

Prairie Warbler – *Setophaga discolor* (31/10). A singing male was documented for Corwina Park, *Jefferson*, 18–21 June 2011 (DF†, BM†; 2011-92; 7-0). The original report, which came from a posting to eBird, mentioned the possibility of two males and a female, but neither of the reporting observers saw more than one male.

Cassin's Sparrow – *Peucaea cassinii*.

The first record for the West Slope was provided by documentation, including an audio recording, of a singing male near Paonia, *Delta*, 5–7 July 2011 (JBs s; 2011-97; 7-0). Cassin's Sparrow had an irruption year in 2011, with first state records in Arkansas, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Ohio, and a second record for Illinois. Arizona birders reported a widespread incursion into the northern part of the state in summer 2011 (perhaps the source of the *Delta* bird?) where the species is considered casual (Arizona Field Ornithologists 2011).

Black-throated Sparrow – *Amphispiza bilineata*. Documentation of a non-vocalizing individual on Eight Mile Mesa near Pagosa Springs on 1 June 2011 provided a very rare *Archuleta* record for this species (SA; 2011-77; 7-0). The species' range extends northeasterly into western Colorado, where it is most commonly found along the border with Utah north to *Garfield* (Kingery 1998, Righter et al. 2004). The first Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas showed only one possible breeding record for *Archuleta* (Kingery 1998).

"Red" Fox Sparrow – *Passerella iliaca/zaboria* (20/19). One found on private property in *Boulder* on the Boulder CBC (19 December 2010) stayed through 3 March 2011. However, the CBRC received documentation from only one observer for the lone date of 4 February 2011 (BS†, JBa; 2011-28; 7-0).

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (30/15). One in first-winter plumage was documented for Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, 15 October 2010 (DL†; 2010-173; 7-0),

though it was reported to have been there on subsequent dates. The CBRC received a single documentation for the overwintering Golden-crowned Sparrow at Teller Farms east of Boulder, Boulder, the second for the county, from an observer who saw the bird only on 2 April 2011 (SM†; 2011-31; 7-0).

Hepatic Tanager – *Piranga flava* (23/7). Three males were heard singing on 29 May 2011 and an apparent mated pair observed on 5 June 2011 from County Road 177.9 above Reed Canyon near Kim, Las Animas (JD†; 2011-75; 7-0).

Summer Tanager – *Piranga rubra*. As incredible as three Summer Tanagers on the West Slope in the same year may sound, the three documented to the CBRC in 2011 were all first-cycle males. The first feasted on grape jelly at a private residence in Glenwood Springs, Garfield, documented for 17–19 May (TM†, RH; 2011-73; 7-0). Chalking up another interesting find from Breeding Bird Atlas work, Henwood found a first-cycle male on private property in the Escalante Forks area, Mesa, 7 June (MHe; 2011-86; 7-0). The third was described as large-billed and the observer considered it to be of the southwestern subspecies *cooperi*. This individual was near Nucla, Montrose, 5 July (JC; 2011-101; 7-0). This, or possibly another, individual was reported approximately two miles away on 9 July. Additional 2011 sightings, without documentation, of first-cycle males on the West Slope included one in Carbondale, Garfield, on 7 May, and another, or possibly the same as 2011-73, in Glenwood Springs on 1 June.

Scarlet Tanager – *Piranga olivacea*

(35/12). A female was observed at Rose Pond on Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo, 26 May 2011 (BM†, BKP†, KC; 2011-64; 7-0).

Pyrrhuloxia – *Cardinalis sinuatus* (4/1). An adult female was observed near Alamosa, Alamosa, by a private landowner from 8 June to 17 June 2011, and documented by the reporting observer 8–10 June (JR†; 2011-84; 7-0). While many of us are motivated to “chase” rare birds for different reasons, we must also take care to be good representatives of the broader birding community and respect the wishes of private landowners who don’t want to be disturbed by visiting birders. The reporting observer honored the landowner’s request not to publicize this bird’s presence during its stay, and the CBRC respects his decision to do so.

Baltimore Oriole – *Icterus galbula*. A phenotypically pure adult male made a one-day appearance on 1 June 2011 at a private residence in La Veta, Huerfano (PN†; 2011-76; 7-0).

Scott’s Oriole – *Icterus parisorum*. Providing Boulder’s second record, an adult male visited a private residence in the city of Boulder on the lone date of 16 May 2011 (DW†; 2011-54; 7-0).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

The Committee recognizes that its “not accepted” decisions may upset those individuals whose documentations did not receive endorsement as state records. We heartily acknowledge that those who make the effort to submit documentation certainly care whether or not their reports are accepted. However, non-accepted reports do not necessarily suggest that the

CBRC believes the observer misidentified or did not see the species. A non-accepted report only indicates that, in the opinion of at least two of the seven Committee members, the documentation did not provide enough evidence to support the identification of the species reported. Many non-accepted reports do not adequately describe the bird(s) observed or adequately rule out similarly looking species. For more information on what the CBRC considers during its review, the Committee recommends that observers consult Leukering (2004), which is available through the CBRC website at <http://www.cfobirds.org/records/reports.htm>, when writing documentation of a rare bird.

All non-accepted reports may be reconsidered by the Committee if new information is provided (e.g., photos, supplemental documentation). We summarize below why the following reports were not accepted.

Brant (Black) – *Branta bernicla nigricans*. Documentation of a juvenile at Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick*, 28 November 2010, did not receive endorsement from the CBRC (2010-155; 4-3, 2-5). Several Committee members commented that the observer did not sufficiently rule out juvenile dark-morph (i.e., “blue”) Snow Goose or Ross’s Goose, and that the brief description did not allow the CBRC to make that determination itself.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Anas penelope*. A female was reported from the Haxtun sewage ponds, *Phillips*, 2 April 2010 (2010-15; 0-7). Identification of female Eurasian Wigeon has challenged Colorado birders, as evidenced by the fact

that all of the state’s 38 records are of adult males. The description provided for this individual did not include salient characteristics necessary for the CBRC to accept. These characteristics include axillary (underwing) coloration (gray or white) and presence or absence of a black gape border. The CBRC encourages birders to review Cox and Barry (2005) to familiarize themselves with the identification challenges posed by female-plumaged wigeons.

Red-throated Loon – *Gavia stellata*. The description provided from a 30-second view of a distant adult loon at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, 5 November 2010, reported as a Red-throated did not adequately eliminate similar species in the opinion of the CBRC (2010-140; 3-4). One Committee member was concerned with an inconsistency within the observation itself. The observer reported that the loon was “consistently diving” and yet “could never refound [sic] it after it dove for the first time.” While such inconsistency is not enough to warrant non-acceptance of a report as a state record, it may cause heightened suspicion by the CBRC about the accuracy of other details provided in the report.

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. The brief description of a juvenile cormorant at Lake Henry, *Crowley*, 15 May 2010, caused several Committee members to comment that there was not enough information to objectively conclude that it was a Neotropic (2010-107; 2-5). As with some other non-accepted sightings discussed herein, the documentation for this bird was written months (in this case seven months) after the sighting without sup-

port of photos or written notes at time of the sighting.

Documentation of an immature at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, 15 May 2010, required three rounds of voting (2010-106; 4-3, 4-3, 4-3). Ultimately, it did not receive enough support due to the late sight-only report (seven months after the sighting) and brief description that did not rule out Double-crested Cormorant in the opinion of several Committee members.

The Committee also reviewed documentation of an immature cormorant at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, 24 May 2010. Again, this report submitted seven months after the sighting did not conclusively eliminate similar species, specifically Double-crested Cormorant, from contention in the opinion of a majority of Committee members (2010-109; 3-4).

Red-shouldered Hawk – *Buteo lineatus*. A juvenile hawk observed in flight in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 16 February 2010, was described as small with a “dark head...thin black and white streaks on the tail, and buffy comma shape crescents on the outer wing” (2010-103; 1-6). Several dissenting Committee members commented that juvenile Red-tailed Hawks can also show “commas” on the wings. Committee members were also concerned of how lighting conditions (mid-day in mid-February) might have influenced observation conditions of a hawk seen flying to the south for less than half a minute.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Tryngites subruficollis*. An adult was reported from McIntosh Res., *Boulder*, 2 August 2010, by a single observer (2010-120; 3-4).

Several Committee members commented that the distance of observation (1200 feet) concerned them, and that the description of this buffy colored shorebird did not adequately rule out other “buffy” species, specifically juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, and Mountain Plover.

Red Phalarope – *Phalaropus fulicarius*. An adult phalarope in basic plumage was reported from Luna Res., *Weld*, 19 September 2010. The documentation required two rounds of voting, but ultimately most Committee members were not convinced by the written description that relied on vocalization (the bird called once in flight) and a description of the back coloration as “light” to rule out Red-necked Phalarope (2010-123; 5-2, 3-4).

Black-billed Cuckoo – *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. The CBRC concluded that the documentation provided for an adult cuckoo at CVCG, *Weld*, 8 June 2010, observed for ten seconds and a lifer for the reporting individual, did not conclusively support the identification (2010-112; 4-3, 2-5). The CBRC is hesitant to support late-coming documentation that describes precise plumage details of a bird observed months earlier if that documentation does not also have photos or written notes.

Another reported adult Black-billed Cuckoo, this one at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, 4 July 2010, was also observed very briefly (for eight seconds) in flight only (2010-116; 2-5). This report was prepared five months after the observation and without photos or notes written at the time of observation.

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alno-*

rum. The CBRC reviewed two documentations of individual Alder Flycatchers reported from May 2010. The first individual, at Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo, 19 May 2010, was described as giving the distinctive “pip” call of Alder Flycatcher. However, the photos appeared to show a brownish flycatcher with an incomplete eyering – characteristics more associated with Willow Flycatcher than with Alder. The two dissenting members in the third round of voting commented that the photos, although certainly of a Traill’s-type flycatcher, did not conclusively support the identification of an Alder despite the call-note description (2010-31; 4-3, 4-3, 5-2).

The second individual was found on a CFO convention trip at Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan, 21 May 2010. This bird was also described as giving the “pip” call of Alder Flycatcher; however, the two dissenting members in the first round of voting both noted that the photos were not of a Traill’s-type flycatcher, but were more likely of a Dusky Flycatcher. Specifically, the members noted its short, all-black bill, very short primary projection, squat and rounded head profile, and broad eyering. Upon further review of the photos and first-round comments, the remaining Com-

mittee members agreed that the photos did not support the identification of an Alder Flycatcher (2010-83; 5-2, 0-7).

Sprague’s Pipit – *Anthus spragueii*. One was reported singing near Arapahoe, Cheyenne, 17 April 2010 (2010-72; 2-5). The observer did not observe the bird, which is not unusual for this species as it often sings in flight at considerable height, but unfortunately, the documentation did not provide a description of the song. The song is distinctive, and since the bird was singing in flight, a behavior typical of only a few North American species, two Committee members considered that suitable evidence to support the identification. The remaining members, however, commented that without a song description, identification to species was not possible for what would be the state’s third spring record.

Eastern Meadowlark – *Sturnella magna*. The reporting observer noted that the meadowlark observed near Holyoke along the Yuma and Phillips line, 2 April 2010, sang an Eastern Meadowlark song (2010-14; 2-5). The documentation, however, did not provide a description of that song and the plumage description was too brief for species identification in the CBRC’s opinion.

REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

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