

# The 64<sup>th</sup> Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

*Doug Faulkner*

Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

## Introduction

This 64<sup>th</sup> report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 84 reports submitted by 34 observers and documenting 60 occurrences of 40 species (or recognizable forms) from the period March 1992 to February 2012. 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 a reclassification of an Eastern Whip-poor-will record as Mexican Whip-poor-will, the state's second Streak-backed Oriole, fourth Tufted Duck, fourth Atlantic (*hrota* subspecies) Brant, and fifth Common Ground-Dove. 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, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, Ric Olson, 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](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 species' 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 53<sup>rd</sup> Supplement (Chesser et al. 2012). 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 Chico Basin Ranch (CBR), Crow Valley Campground (CVCG), Highway (Hwy), National Park (NP), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reservoir (Res.), State Park (SP), and State Wildlife Area (SWA).

**Corrigenda:** The 62<sup>nd</sup> CBRC Report (April 2012) had a couple of errors. Two of the accepted Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) records should have the accession number year changed to 2011. Therefore, records 2010-70 and 2010-71 should be 2011-70 and 2011-71, respectively. Also, the Chair thanks Tony Leukering for pointing out the correct age of the Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) as an immature, not an adult as noted in that report.

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Atlantic Brant** – *Branta bernicla hrota* (19/7). Furnishing only the fourth record of this subspecies in Colorado, two adults were photographed at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, 30 November – 2 December 2011 (NK†, BM†; 2011-173; 7-0). Komar also found Colorado's only other 21<sup>st</sup> century Atlantic Brant – one at Fossil Creek, *Larimer* (2005-127); the remaining two records are from the early 1990s.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Anas penelope* (39/16). The CBRC received a late report of an adult male discovered during the spring of 1992. The documenting observer, writing from notes taken after the observation, saw the bird at Prince Lake #2 (a.k.a. Hiram Prince Res.), *Boulder*, on the single date of 24 March 1992 (DE; 2011-188; 7-0). According to the Spring 1992 "News from the Field" (Prather 1992), this bird was reported for the period 22-28 March. Astonishingly, eight (!) Eurasian Wigeons were reported during that spring at widely disparate locations along the Front Range. The CBRC has only one other record from that spring, of one at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 28 March (8-92-24); documentation of the others would be appreciated. The CBRC is conservative in its decisions for documentations written a consider-

able time after the observation (see Not Accepted section below) when the observer does not provide notes or physical evidence (e.g., photo). However, the CBRC wholeheartedly encourages submission of documentations containing photos, notes, or other evidence of historical occurrences.

**Tufted Duck** – *Aythya fuligula* (4/2). The state's fourth record, of an apparent adult female discovered at Firestone gravel ponds, *Weld*, 4 December 2011 (SM†; 2011-177; 7-0), was found 11 months after and 8.5 miles away from the state's third (Golden Ponds, *Boulder*, 17 January 2011; 2011-18) by the same observer. It is entirely possible that both of these records pertain to the same bird and that this bird was the parent of an immature Tufted Duck × Lesser Scaup found at Firestone gravel ponds 18 March 2012 (Leukering and Mlodinow, in press).

**Red-throated Loon** – *Gavia stellata*. The CBRC added two records of this species prior to removing it from the Main Review List (see Faulkner 2012). A juvenile was observed at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, 3-4 November 2011 (BKP, BM; 2011-154; 7-0). Another one-day wonder and a first for *Boulder*, a juvenile was found at Baseline Res., 8 November 2011 (CN†, BM, PG†; 2011-158; 7-0).

**Least Bittern** – *Ixobrychus exilis*. One was documented from Holcim Wetlands, *Fremont*, 5 August 2011 (BM†, RM; 2011-105; 7-0). Apparently the species nested here, as two adults and multiple young were reported from 3 August – 3 September. Although the CBRC did not receive documentation, we are thankful to the observer(s) for submitting it to the Breeding Bird Atlas II project.

**American Woodcock** – *Scolopax minor* (9/3). One visited a Burlington, *Kit Carson*, backyard at least 18-30 November 2011 (JD†, SMu; 2011-172; 7-0). Of the state's nine records this is the third for November, the only month to have more than one record.

**Little Gull** – *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (28/8). An adult and a juvenile were found at Union Res., *Weld*, 1 December 2011 (SMI† [juvenile], TH, NK [adult]; 2011-174; 7-0). The adult was observed only on 1 December, while the juvenile remained through 3 December. This is the second-latest fall record of the species, as most fall birds are found mid-September to mid-November. The latest record was of an absurdly long-staying adult at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, 27 November – 18 December 1999 (1999-55).

**Iceland Gull** – *Larus glaucoides* (16/14). The CBRC reviewed documentations for two first-cycle individuals found on the same date of 1 April 2007. One was observed at the Weld County landfill near Severance (NK, LS†, PL; 2007-15; 7-0) before flying toward Black Hollow Res., *Weld*. Upon arriving at Black Hollow Res., the group of birders re-found that in-

dividual and discovered a second one (NK, LS; 2007-16; 6-1). In that same general area four years later, a first-cycle individual was seen at Timnath Res., *Larimer*, and the Weld County landfill on 13 November 2011 (SMI; 2011-160; 7-0). Another first-cycle individual was found in 2011, this one at Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*, 31 December 2011 (JD†, GW; 2011-183; 7-0). The state's first and second records are from 1999 and 2000, but the remaining records occurred since 2005. All have been of first-cycle birds, except for a single adult (2008-20) and one second-cycle individual (2005-9).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Larus fuscus*. Not only a first for *Alamosa*, but for the entire San Luis Valley, an adult was photographed at San Luis Lake SP, 26 October 2011 (JR†; 2011-149; 7-0).

**Glaucous-winged Gull** – *Larus glaucescens* (16/6). A nice find to finish off one's year list, a first-cycle individual was documented from Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*, on the lone date of 31 December 2011 (SMI†; 2011-182; 7-0).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Larus marinus*. One adult was observed at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on multiple days from 19 November 2011 through the end of the year, but was joined by a second adult on 1 January 2012 (PH†, BM†, SMI†, BKP; 2011-166; 7-0).

**Arctic Tern** – *Sterna paradisaea* (16/7). The CBRC considered the occurrences of an adult at CBR's Headquarters Pond, *Pueblo*, 24-25 May 2011, and at Windsor Lake, *Weld*, the following day, 26 May, as constituting a single record (BM†, JD†, SMI;

2011-59; 7-0). These documentations were lumped at the Chair's discretion given the rarity of this species in spring (only five previous records), the north-south trajectory for a north-bound migrant between these locations, and the likely arrival at Windsor Lake the day after the *Pueblo* bird was last observed. Only one Committee member felt strongly that these should be considered as separate records. The identity of the tern was not in question at either location. For reasons stated above, the most parsimonious answer is that these observations were of the same bird; however, as with all documentations, the Committee may revisit this decision at a later date. A less controversial juvenile discovered at Boulder Res., *Boulder*, on 18 October 2011 was documented through the 29<sup>th</sup> (DF†, NP, CN; 2011-146; 7-0). This record is particularly notable for its late date; only one other accepted record (2003-112) beats it, with the incredibly late date of 28 November. Arctic Terns are casual anywhere in North America by early November (e.g., California; Small 1994).

**Pomarine Jaeger** – *Stercorarius pomarinus* (24/7). An intermediate-morph juvenile harassed the Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, gull population at least 19-28 November 2011 (BM†, PH†, JK; 2011-168; 7-0), although the bird was reported through at least 1 December. Late fall appears to be the time to find this species, as 17 records are from October-November, with 6 December the latest date on record in the state.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** – *Stercorarius longicaudus* (21/13). An adult was in-

cientally found when it was flushed by a Pomarine Jaeger (2008-116) the reporting observer was watching at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, 4 October 2008 (BK†; 2009-118; 6-1).

**Common Ground-Dove** – *Columbina passerina* (5/1). Finally, a ground-dove stayed put long enough for many of the state's birders to see it (SMI†, MB, PG†, BM†, BKP†; 2011-159; 7-0). Found on 12 November 2011 by Steve Mlodinow and Tim Smart at Lions Wayside Park near Julesburg, *Sedgwick*, this individual stayed through bitterly cold weather (it was for us humans, so one wonders what it must have felt like for this southern species) when it was last observed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month. The state's first three records were all by single observers, while the fourth was observed by two birders. Surprisingly, four of the state's five records are from northeastern Colorado (*Logan*, *Morgan*, *Sedgwick*, and *Weld*), with the fifth (and state's first) from *Douglas*.

**Mexican Whip-poor-will** – *Anotostomus arizonae* (2/0). The species was formally split from Eastern Whip-poor-will (*A. vociferus*) in 2010 (Chesser et al. 2010) partially based on differences in vocalizations (Hardy et al. 1988, Cink 2002) and the CBRC recognized only one record (1999-86; Fosset Gulch, *Archuleta*, 22 June 1999) in its 56<sup>th</sup> Report announcing the species split (Semo and Faulkner 2010). However, a record from South Cheyenne Canyon, *El Paso*, 15-30 July 1981, was tape recorded and accepted by the CBRC as pertaining to the then-subspecies *arizonae* (Chase 1982; also see Andrews and Righter

1992). This *El Paso* record is now recognized as pertaining to Mexican Whip-poor-will and becomes the state's first record. Thanks to Laurens Halsey and Tony Leukering for bringing this to my attention.

**Acorn Woodpecker** – *Melanerpes formicivorus* (12/4). The Committee received late documentation (better late than never!) of one southwest of Gulnare, *Las Animas*, 29-30 June 2004 (TLc†; 2011-185; 7-0). This is particularly interesting since the CBRC has another 2004 record approximately 10 miles northeast of that vicinity in Aguilar, 16-18 May (2004-35). Considering records at Lake Dorothea SWA, *Las Animas*, in 1994 (33-94-43), Pueblo Mountain Park, *Pueblo*, 20 May 2000 (2000-85), reports of a pair attending a nest cavity in that park in 2012, and recent single records for *Boulder* and *El Paso*, how many other locations along the I-25 corridor could be harboring this species?

**Eastern Phoebe** – *Sayornis phoebe*. A first for *Park*, one was found on a horse ranch during Breeding Bird Atlas survey work near Fairplay, 19 July 2010 (JD; 2011-184; 6-1).

**Alder Flycatcher** – *Empidonax alnorum* (36/24). A juvenile photographed at CVCG, *Weld*, 28 August 2011, was within the date span for fall migrants in eastern Colorado (SML†; 2011-111; 7-0). Although more frequently reported during spring migration, this species has been recorded on six occasions from fall, 16 August – 13 September. Southbound Alder Flycatcher records from Nebraska span at least 21 July to 4 September (Sharpe et al. 2001), with banding data indi-

cating that this species is a common migrant in Keith County (west-central Nebraska) from 21 July to 17 August (Brown et al. 1996).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – *Tyrannus forficatus*. Although apparently a few have been reported previously, the first documentation submitted to and accepted by the CBRC for *Boulder* was of a male along the South Boulder Trail, 21 August 2009 (PG†, CN; 2011-10; 7-0).

**Blue-headed Vireo** – *Vireo solitarius* (37/28). This species staged a remarkable invasion during a narrow time band in fall 2011, with four records during the period 5-8 October. The first two individuals found were both at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on the separate dates of 5 and 7 October (BKP†; 2011-133; 7-0 and BKP†; 2011-134: 7-0), respectively. Although found at the same location and only two days apart, the observer noted the vireos differed in plumage, with the second individual decidedly duller. First county records for *Boulder* and *Ourray* were found 8 October with single vireos along the Boulder Creek Path (CN†; 2011-136; 7-0) and at Dennis Weaver Town Park in Ridgway (CD; 2011-137; 7-0). This species is fairly well established as a rare fall migrant, with 32 of the state's 37 records falling between 1 September and 25 October (19 in September, 13 in October). Fall migration in Plumbeous and Cassin's vireos averages much earlier.

**Philadelphia Vireo** – *Vireo philadelphicus* (39/14). One was observed at Stalker Pond near Wray, *Yuma*, 3 October 2011 (SML; 2011-131; 7-0). Although the 24 fall records span the

period from 18 August to 19 October, early October has witnessed an unusual number of occurrences: six of the eight October records (and 25% of all fall records) are from the first week.

**Winter Wren** – *Troglodytes hiemalis*. One was heard singing near Calypso Cascades in the Wild Basin portion of Rocky Mountain NP, *Boulder*, 17-25 July 2011 (MB s; 2011-104; 7-0). This is the third such report for Rocky Mountain NP since 2000 that this author can remember.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – *Catharus minimus* (53/19). Documentation, including photos, of three at Hillside Cemetery in Fort Lupton, *Weld*, 14 May 2006, further supports the magnitude of that spring's invasion by this species into eastern Colorado (TLe†; 2011-189; 7-0). The CBRC now has seven records pertaining to 15 individuals from 11-16 May 2006. Typically only a few are reported each spring. Although initial dates of occurrence for 48 of the state's records span the month of May, 23 of these are from the narrow window of 11-16 May, suggesting a strong pattern to the species' timing of migration.

**Wood Thrush** – *Hylocichla ustulata*. Two more records for this recently removed Main Review List species were accepted by the CBRC: one at Thompson Ranch, *Lincoln*, 11 October 2008 (MP†; 2011-8; 7-0) and one at Haxtun City Park, *Phillips*, 18 November 2011 (JD†, BKP†, NMO; 2011-164; 7-0). The species is most often reported in spring, with 22 records spanning the period 2 April – 24 June, although 16 records are evenly spread across May. Fall records are less

frequent, with 15 spanning the period 13 September – 18 November, nine of those from October. December and January each have single records.

**Worm-eating Warbler** – *Helminthospermivora*. One at the Cañon City Riverwalk, *Fremont*, 5-19 November 2011 (SML†, BKP†, SMO; 2011-156; 7-0) is notable for representing the county's first and only the second fall record, as well as providing the late-date record. Predominantly a spring migrant in Colorado, this species typically migrates on a more easterly path during fall migration, late July to late September (Dunn and Garrett 1997), than in spring, so its occurrence in November in Colorado is that much more remarkable.

**Prothonotary Warbler** – *Protonotaria citrea*. Establishing a late-date record for Colorado, a female was observed at the Pine Ridge Natural Area in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 17-18 November 2011 (NK, BB; 2011-163; 6-1). It surpasses the previous late record of one at Stratton Res., *El Paso*, 6 November 1982 (52-82-56). Fall records are typically from late August to early October.

**Pine Warbler** – *Setophaga pinus*. Exemplifying why this species is no longer on the CBRC's Main Review List (see Faulkner 2012), the CBRC accepted six additional records from 2009 and 2011. An adult male was found at a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, 19 October 2009 (JS†, DL; 2010-181; 7-0). Late fall 2011 produced an unprecedented assortment in Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, including an adult male, 27 October 2011 (BKP†; 2011-150; 7-0), an immature female, 31 October 2011

*Brant, Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas County, 20 December 2011. Photo by Bill Maynard*



*Grasshopper Sparrow, Squirrel Creek Road, El Paso County, 24 December 2011. Photo by Bill Maynard*



*Summer Tanager, near Walden, Jackson County, 13 November 2011. Photo by Deborah McLachlan*



*Purple Finch, South Boulder, Boulder County, 24 December 2011. Photo by Rolando Garcia*



(BKP†; 2011-151; 7-0), an immature male, 3 November 2011 (BKP†; 2011-152; 7-0), and a different, as supported by photos, immature female, 3 November 2011 (BKP†; 2011-153; 7-0). Percival did not have a monopoly on this species, though, as one, probably an adult female, came to a feeder at a private residence near Masonville, *Larimer*, 19-20 November 2011 (PW†; 2011-167; 7-0).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – *Setophaga dominica*. The CBRC missed reviewing documentation of a photographed adult male at Matthew-Reser Bird Sanctuary, *Larimer*, 23 October 2009 (RH†, SR; 2009-119; 7-0) submitted in 2009. The bird had been reported for 20-25 October, so the previous Chair may have been waiting for additional documentation to arrive. Given the time that had passed without additional documentation, the CBRC reviewed this documentation in 2012.

**Eastern Towhee** – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (21/10). A hatch-year bird visited feeders at a private residence near Lyons, *Boulder*, 17-19 November 2011 (NK†, DW; 2011-165; 6-1). *Boulder* accounts for 20% of all Eastern Towhee records, with its first (and the state's second) dating back to 1944. Nearby, an adult male remained at a private residence near Berthoud, *Larimer*, 3 December 2011 – 3 January 2012 (SD†; 2011-176; 7-0).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – *Ammodramus savannarum*. A very rare late winter occurrence was documented for an individual along Squirrel Creek Road near Fountain, *El Paso*, 24 December 2011 (BM†; 2011-179; 7-0).

**Le Conte's Sparrow** – *Ammodramus leconteii* (13/4). One was found on a private ranch near Kutch in *Lincoln*, 2 October 2011 (BM†, DMA; 2011-129; 7-0). Although records span every month from September through May, with recent initial dates of observation of 17 September 2011 (2011-121) and 3 October 2009 (2009-67), it appears that mid-September to early October is a good time to look for this species in eastern Colorado.

**Red Fox Sparrow** – *Passerella iliaca iliaca/zaboria*. Individuals of this form were photographed on the same date of 16 October 2011 at Frenchman Hills SWA near Haxtun, *Phillips* (SMI†; 2011-142; 7-0) and at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca* (BKP†; 2011-143; 7-0) at the expected time of year. This form appears to be a regular migrant on the eastern plains early October – early December. Of the CBRC's 22 records, 16 are from October – November.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (31/16). Presumably the same sparrow that overwintered at Red Rocks, *Jefferson*, in 2010-2011 returned for a second winter, during which it was seen 3 November 2011 to 26 March 2012 (MH†, CA, SMI†; 2011-155; 7-0).

**Summer Tanager** – *Piranga rubra*. Providing a first for *Jackson*, an adult male was first noticed when it attempted to get at dead flies on the inside window sill at a private residence near Walden, 13 November 2011 (DMC†; 2011-161; 7-0).

**Scarlet Tanager** – *Piranga olivacea*. One was found at Valco Ponds SWA, *Pueblo*, 8 October 2011 (BKE;

2011-138; 7-0). This species is more frequently reported in spring than in fall, which has only seven records (through 2011) spanning mid-August to early December.

**Dickcissel** – *Spiza americana*. A first for *Delta* in the CBRC database, an intermittently singing male was observed near Paonia, 22-24 June 2006 (JB†; 2011-187; 7-0). The species is very rare on the West Slope, with Righter et al. (2004) noting seven records including one near Hotchkiss, *Delta*, in 1966. At least three adults, including a female carrying food to a hidden nest, were observed in a pasture on the Meadow Springs Ranch near Carr, *Larimer*, 3-4 August 2011 (EY; 2011-11; 7-0). The species appears to have moved westward as a breeder. Kingery (1998) showed no breeding records for *Larimer*, whereas the Breeding Bird Atlas II project (<http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/CO/>) shows multiple possible/probable breeding status blocks along the northern Front Range.

**Orchard Oriole** – *Icterus spurius*. A first-summer male visited a feeder at a private residence near Hayden, *Routt*, 30 May – 3 June 2011 (TLi†, NMe; 2011-14; 7-0). This species is a casual visitor to the West Slope in late spring and summer.

**Streak-backed Oriole** – *Icterus pustulatus* (2/2). Colorado's second was seen by a single observer at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, 25 November 2011 (MP; 2011-170; 6-1). The bird was well described, but its age/sex was not determined, as it may have been either an immature male or an adult female. The report-

ing observer noted that the immature plumages of eastern Colorado's two regular oriole species have streaking or line-spotting on their backs, so while Streak-backed Oriole is appropriately named for its adult plumage, that characteristic alone is not sufficient to identify an immature bird. This bird, however, was described as having a black throat patch extending to the eye and contrastingly more orange around the face than the yellow-orange of its remaining body plumage, along with several other details that helped eliminate other oriole contenders. Though this species is generally considered a vagrant to the southwestern United States just north of the Mexican border in Arizona and California, there have been two other Streak-backed Orioles far north of the border: Malheur NWR in southeastern Oregon, 28 September – 1 October 1993 (Marshall et al. 2003) and Mercer, Wisconsin, 15 January 1998 (Schultz 1999).

**Purple Finch** – *Haemorhous purpureus* (40/10). A female-plumaged individual was beautifully photographed at a private residence in Boulder, *Boulder*, 24 December 2011 (RG†; 2011-180; 7-0).

**Common Redpoll** – *Acanthis flammea*. Unusual so far south in the state in a non-invasion year, an adult female came to feeders at two Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, residences 3-6 December 2011 (DP†, BM†; 2011-175; 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 indicates only 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.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Larus marinus*. The Committee required two rounds to reach a decision for documentation of two large, dark-backed second-cycle gulls reported to be this species at Black Hollow Res., Weld, 22 March 2005 (2005-119; 5-2, 5-2). While most members supported the documentation, the plumage description for these birds did not satisfy two

members. It is possible that the age of these birds was not reported accurately, thus leading to the non-accept decision, as the description did not exactly match the age reported in the opinions of the dissenting members. However, one affirming CBRC member commented that in March it is likely that these birds were in a transitional plumage and the plumage description may not perfectly match the reported age. Documentation for a first-cycle individual at Pueblo Res., Pueblo, 7 December 2005 (2005-136; 4-3, 5-2) did not receive endorsement as a state record due to the lack of sufficient plumage description in two members' opinions in the final round of voting. Note that there are only two voting rounds recorded for both of these birds. The online system currently shows only the second and third<sup>t</sup> rounds, but the Chair's records indicate that the vote for the first round was also indecisive (i.e., the report received more than three, but fewer than six "accept" votes); however, the actual first-round tally has apparently been lost and is not reported here.

**Baird's Sparrow** – *Ammodramus bairdii* (11/0). Documentation for one at Vogel Canyon, Otero, 5 August 2007, written from memory and submitted in 2011, received no support from the Committee (2011-186; 0-7). Perhaps as a result of the time lag in reporting, most CBRC members commented that the description lacked sufficient plumage details to accept for a species with only 11 state records and none since 2000.

**Eastern Meadowlark** – *Sturnella*

*magna* (11/6). Another late documentation received by the CBRC in 2011, this one of a singing meadowlark alongside Hwy 287 near Nee Noshe Res., *Kiowa*, 14 September 2001 (2011-9; 3-4), was written from notes taken at the time of observation. The mixed vote on this documentation partially reflects the Committee's re-

luctance to accept meadowlark records based on song alone, since songs of meadowlarks are learned while calls are innate. The documentation did not include a description of any call notes or plumage details. For these reasons, several CBRC members commented that they could not support it as a state record.

## REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

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Doug Faulkner, 6035 Parfet St., Arvada, CO 80004, cbrc@cfobirds.org