

The 66th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

Doug Faulkner

Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

Introduction

This 66th report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 49 reports submitted by 26 observers and documenting 39 occurrences of 32 species (or recognizable forms) from the period May 2011 to January 2013. 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 Colorado's third record of Western Gull, third record of Royal Tern, and first county records for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Lincoln*), Glossy Ibis (*Mesa*), White-rumped Sandpiper (*Park*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Summit*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Logan*), Acorn Woodpecker (*Jefferson*), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Logan*), Lucy's Warbler (*El Paso*), Northern Parula (*La Plata*), Prairie Warbler (*Rio Grande*), Black-chinned Sparrow (*Huerfano*), and Scott's Oriole (*Huerfano*). With publication of this report, the state list remains at 493 species.

Committee members voting on these reports were John Drummond, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Bill Maynard, Brandon Percival, Bill Schmoker, David Silverman, and Glenn Walbek.

Committee Functions

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its Main Review List (http://www.cfobirds.org/records/review_list.htm), species with no prior accepted record in Colorado, and sightings of regularly occurring species that are considered out-of-range or out-of-season. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (<http://www.cfobirds.org/CBRC/login.php>). Alternatively, one can fill out the form printed on the inside dust jacket of this journal and mail it to the CBRC Chair, or request an electronic Word document from the Chair or Secretary (see this journal's inside front cover for contact information).

Committee News

Brandon Percival joined the Committee in early 2013, replacing

Peter Gent, whose tenure was term-limited. Brandon's expertise and birding prowess are well known to the Colorado birding community. He brings a lot of out-of-state experience and an eye for detail (particularly plumage details) and is a welcome addition to the Committee.

In early 2013, the Committee discussed the value of the Conditional Review List as established in 2002 (Semo et al. 2002). Until 2002, the CBRC traditionally reviewed all documentations of species on the Main Review List as well as those of all species new to the state and those of any birds considered unusual for a particular location or season. The Committee has decided to revert to the old system of maintaining only a Main Review List. That does not preclude the CBRC from requesting or reviewing documentation for those birds that are geographically or seasonally rare, including all potential first county records regardless of how common the species is elsewhere in the state. We are currently working to revamp the online reporting system so that observers can determine for themselves whether a particular bird sighting should be documented to the CBRC. In the meantime, however, the CBRC will contact individuals for documentation for sightings we are aware of. You may contact the Chair or Secretary if you are unsure whether a particular sighting should be documented.

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 (2003-2012). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria the Committee uses to determine a species' continuance on or removal from the statewide Main Review List.

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 53rd 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



Gray-cheeked Thrush, Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, 19 May 2012. Photo by Glenn Walbek



Iceland Gull, St. Vrain State Park, Weld County, 1 April 2012. Photo by Steve Mlodinow



Red Knot, Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County, 2 Sept 2011. Photo by Glenn Walbek



Royal Tern, Barr Lake State Park, Adams County, 30 July 2012. Photo by Loch Kilpatrick



Western Gull, Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, 29 Mar 2012. Photo by Steve Mlodinow



White-rumped Sandpiper, Antero Reservoir, Park County, 3 June 2012. Photo by Steve Mlodinow

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), Reservoir (Res.), State Park (SP), and State Wildlife Area (SWA).

Corrigendum: The 64th CBRC Report (October 2012) erroneously listed the dates of occurrence for the juvenile Red-throated Loon at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, (CBRC#2011-154) as 3-4 November 2011. The bird was observed only on 3 November 2011.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Mexican Duck – *Anas platyrhynchos diazi*. A male of this race was found at the Firestone gravel pits, *Weld*, 22 March 2012, and then observed again at St. Vrain SP, *Weld*, 11 April 2012 (SMI†; 2012-46; 6-1).

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (24/11). An immature at St. Vrain SP, *Weld*, 19 April

2012 (SMI; 2012-48; 7-0) represented just the second record for that well-birded county.

Reddish Egret – *Egretta rufescens* (13/6). A long-staying immature was cooperative for birders looking for it at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, 24 June – 1 July 2012 (JN†, DC†, BKP†; 2012-85; 7-0).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron –

Nyctanassa violacea (26/11). An immature was discovered at The Nature Conservancy's Brett Gray Ranch, Lincoln, 29 July 2012 (BM†, MP; 2012-90; 7-0), representing the first record for that county.

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus*. Furnishing a rare West Slope record and the first for Mesa, one in alternate plumage was found at Highline SP, 21 April 2012 (SMI†; 2012-50; 7-0). This species was recently removed from the Main Review List (Faulkner 2012); however, all West Slope and first county reports should still be documented to the CBRC.

Red Knot – *Calidris canutus* (27/7). Breaking the seeming drought for this species in the state since 2007, a juvenile was at Jumbo Res., Logan, 2 September 2011 (GW†; 2012-41; 7-0).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Calidris fuscicollis*. The first Park record was represented by 47 individuals of this species at Antero Res., 3 June 2012 (SMI†; 2012-74; 7-0).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Phalaropus lobatus*. An adult male at the Silverthorne Water Treatment Plant, Summit, 19 May 2012 (MS†; 2012-78; 7-0) represented the first record for that high-elevation county.

Laughing Gull – *Leucophaeus atricilla* (43/14). An adult ventured to Cherry Creek SP, Arapahoe, where it was documented for 20 April 2012 (TB; 2012-49; 7-0).

Western Gull – *Larus occidentalis* (3/3). Just a year after Colorado's first in 2011, the state's third was documented from a pond at the intersection of U.S. Highway 6 and County Road R in Washington, 29 March 2012

(SMI†; 2012-38; 7-0). This adult in high alternate plumage may have been present a few days earlier at nearby Prewitt Res.

Iceland Gull – *Larus glaucooides* (25/23). The November 2011 to April 2012 period was an exceptional time for this species in Colorado. Including the three from early spring 2012 contained in this report, the Committee has endorsed 10 records for that time period. The three new records are of one first-cycle individual, Panama Res., Boulder, 11 March 2012 (TF†; 2012-51; 6-1); a third-cycle individual, Prewitt Res., Washington, 29 March 2012 (SMI†; 2012-39; 6-1); and an alternate-plumaged adult, St. Vrain SP, Weld, 1 April 2012 (SMI†; 2012-40; 7-0).

Royal Tern – *Thalasseus maximus* (3/2). The state's third, a basic-plumaged adult, gave birders only distant views at Barr Lake SP, Adams, 29-30 July 2012 (SMI†, PG†, BM†, BS†; 2012-89; 7-0). All three of the state's records have come during summer months, in the period spanning 17 June to 30 July, and none has been documented staying for more than two days.

Magnificent Hummingbird – *Eugenes fulgens* (18/8). An immature male at a private residence in Livermore, Larimer, 9 July 2012 (CBe†; 2012-81; 7-0) is intriguing, as it is relatively close (about 35 miles ENE) of Tunnel Campground, Larimer, where an adult female has been documented every year since 2010.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – *Archilochus colubris* (15/10). A female at a private residence in Sterling, Lo-

gan, 3-10 October 2011 (KK†; 2011-193; 5-2, 6-1) tied the record of 8 days for longest stay by this species and represented the first for that county. Coincidentally, the only other individual to stay 8 days (CBRC#2005-102) also occurred on the dates of 3-10 October.

Anna's Hummingbird – *Calypte anna* (11/4). A female visiting a feeder in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, was documented for 25 October 2011 (NK; 2011-148; 7-0). Records for this species are strongly skewed to late fall, as seven of the 11 records are from late September through early December.

Acorn Woodpecker – *Melanerpes formicivorus* (14/6). The Committee reviewed two documentations of this species in eastern Colorado. A pair at Pueblo Mountain Park near Beulah, *Pueblo*, was documented by the Colorado birding community for the period 23 June – 18 August 2012, beginning shortly after they were discovered by the park director, and at least one remained through 16 January 2013 (BK†, BM†, BKP†, DVM; 2012-86; 7-0). A male visited feeders at a Conifer, *Jefferson*, residence 7-8 July 2012 (IC; 2012-80; 7-0), providing a county first.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker – *Picoides scalaris*. Typically considered a resident of southeastern Colorado, this species has shown that it will venture further afield on occasion. The most recent out-of-range record is of a female at Tamarack SWA, *Logan*, 25 May 2012 (SMI; 2012-73; 6-1).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens* (25/9). The third for *Pueblo* was found at CBR, 31 May 2012 (BM†; 2012-65; 7-0). The late May date is

within the expected dates of occurrence, as ten of the state's 25 records have initially been found from 21 May to 1 June.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Catharus minimus* (56/20). Adding more support to the already well-established pattern of spring occurrence for this species in Colorado (54 of 56 records are from 27 April – 29 May), the committee accepted three records for spring 2012: one at CVCG, *Weld*, 29 April (NM†, SMI; 2012-59; 7-0); one at CBR, *Pueblo*, 16 May (ID; 2012-56; 6-1); and one at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, 19 May (KMD†; 2012-54; 7-0).

"Russet-backed" Swainson's Thrush – *Catharus ustulatus ustulatus*. One was at a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, 13-16 May 2012 (JS†, SMI; 2012-62; 6-1).

Lucy's Warbler – *Oreothlypis luciae* (10/7). Eastern Colorado's third record for this species (the first was in 2002) was represented by a male at CBR, *El Paso*, 20 April 2012 (BKP†, BM†; 2012-45; 7-0).

Cape May Warbler – *Setophaga tigrina* (29/8). The second for the Stulp residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, was an adult male, 26-28 April 2012 (JS†; 2012-63; 7-0). This individual was found exactly three years after the previous record, also an adult male (CBRC#2010-58, 26-27 April 2010).

Northern Parula – *Setophaga americana*. A singing male was found along the Animas River Trail in Durango, *La Plata*, where it was observed by many on the single date of 2 June 2012 (SA; 2012-71; 7-0). This is the first documented record for *La Plata*.

Prairie Warbler – *Setophaga discolor*

(33/11). A first for *Rio Grande*, a male found on private property near Monte Vista, 16 June 2012 (JR; 2012-82; 7-0), was a one-minute wonder, as subsequent attempts to refind the bird later that day and the next were fruitless.

Eastern Towhee – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (24/12). The CBRC reviewed and accepted documentations for three occurrences of this species in spring and summer 2012. A female was a one-day visitor to a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, 26 April 2012 (JS†; 2012-58; 7-0). A singing adult male was photographed at CBR, *Pueblo*, 3 May 2012 (BKP†, BM†; 2012-52; 7-0). The male at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 13 July 2012 represents the first for that county in summer (DS; 2012-84; 7-0). Two previous records for Colorado City are from October and November.

Chipping Sparrow – *Spizella passerina*. The first overwintering individual of this species to be documented in Colorado, one came to a feeder at a private residence in Loveland, *Larimer*, from 1 December 2011 to 24 March 2012 (SW†; 2012-66; 7-0). The bird was first heard singing on 23 February.

Black-chinned Sparrow – *Spizella atrogularis* (4/4). One observed near the well-known spot to find Hepatic Tanager (0.25 miles west of I-25 on 310 Road) in *Huerfano* on 27 May 2012 was well seen by the reporting observer, and the written description provided in the documentation sufficiently ruled out the similar-looking

Dark-eyed Junco in the opinion of a majority of committee members (SC; 2012-69; 6-1). This represents the state's fourth record (the first was in 2006) and the second for eastern Colorado.

Dickcissel – *Spiza americana*. Providing possibly a first breeding record for *Huerfano*, a copulating pair was observed along County Road 360 near La Veta, 2 June 2012 (PN; 2012-68; 7-0).

Eastern Meadowlark – *Sturnella magna* (13/8). The committee endorsed two records of this species in 2012: the first was from two miles east of Carrizo Picnic Area, *Baca*, 14 April (SMI†; 2012-47; 7-0) and the other from further afield at Greenlee Preserve, *Boulder*, 23 May (TF; 2012-76; 5-2, 6-1). Characteristics of the *Baca* meadowlark were consistent with the *liliana* subspecies, while the *Boulder* bird was more consistent with the nominate *magna* subspecies, although neither documentation discussed the subspecies involved.

Bullock's Oriole – *Icterus bullockii*. A male eating crabapples was photographed in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 2 January 2012 (CBo†; 2012-1; 7-0).

Scott's Oriole – *Icterus parisorum*. Yet another rarity found by a participant of the 2012 CFO convention, an adult male that was observed and heard singing near the Hepatic Tanager spot on County Road 310 (see Black-chinned Sparrow above) in *Huerfano*, 21 May 2012 (JD; 2012-57; 7-0) represented a county first.

REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

The CBRC graciously thanks the following individuals for submitting records of or discovering and reporting the rare species in Colorado discussed in this report: Susan Allerton, Charles Bell (CBe), Cree Bol (CBo), Tom Bunker, Judy Carrier, David Chartier, Susan Craig, John Drummond, Kathy Mihm Dunning (KMD), Ted Floyd, Peter Gent, Bill Kaempfer, Nicholas Komar, Ken Kranik, Dave Van Manen (DVM), Bill Maynard, Steve Mlodinow (SMI), Nick Moore, Polly Neldner, Brandon Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson, John Rawinski, Bill Schmoker, David Silverman, Jane Stulp, Marcel Such, Glenn Walbek, and Sean Walters.

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. Lawrence, KS: Allen Press.
- Chesser, T.R., Banks, R.C., Barker, F.K., Cicero, C., Dunn, J.L., Kratter, A.W., Lovette, I.J., Rasmussen, P.C., Remsen, Jr., J.V., Rising, J.D., Stotz, D.F., and K. Winker. 2012. Fifty-third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 129(3): 573-588.
- Faulkner, D. 2012. Changes to the Main Review List. *Colorado Birds* 46(3): 207-214.
- Leukering, T., and L.S. Semo. 2003. Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee: 2001 records, part I. *Colorado Birds* 37: 138-155.

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