

The 69th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

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Introduction

This 69th report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 94 reports submitted by 35 observers and documenting 68 occurrences of 12 species (or recognizable forms) from the period May 1996 to December 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.

This report focuses on recent Committee decisions regarding species new to the state and species removed from the CBRC's Main Review List. The CBRC accepted documentations for Mottled Duck and Cave Swallow as Colorado's first records for each. With acceptance of these two species, the Colorado state list is now 498. This report further elaborates on a previously accepted new species in 2013, Hoary Redpoll, and additional accepted documentations for that species in 2013.

The CBRC has assessed the status of species on its Main Review List. The following seven species and one form are hereby removed from the Main Review List: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Red Fox Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Acceptance of records not previously published, rationale for removal from the Main Review List and a status summary for each of these species is provided in individual accounts.

Committee members voting on these reports were John Drummond (Monument), Doug Faulkner (Arvada), Bill Maynard (Colorado Springs), Brandon Percival (Pueblo), Bill Schmoker (Longmont), David Silverman (Rye) and Glenn Walbek (Castle Rock).

Committee News

The CBRC thanks Bill Maynard for serving six years on the Committee. Bill's second consecutive three-year term expired on December 31 2013, and per the CBRC bylaws, he must be off of the Committee for one full year before becoming eligible to serve another term. This position has been filled by Mark Peterson (Colorado Springs) whose first term will expire at the end of 2016. Mark is a native Coloradoan with extensive birding experience in the southwest

U.S. Many of you will know him as the Colorado Field Ornithologists' County List Master, as well as from his trip reports to remote areas of *Cheyenne*, *Lincoln*, and other east-central counties. This is Mark's first stint on the Committee.

Committee Functions

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its Main Review List (<http://www.coloradobirdrecords.org/ReviewList.aspx>), 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.coloradobirdrecords.org>). 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).

Report Format

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) *Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) through the 54th Supplement (Chesser et al. 2013). We present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official accession 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 total number of state records is given in parentheses after the species scientific name.

The initial observer of the bird is underlined, if known, and is presented first only if that person contributed documentation; additional contributors follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the initial observer is known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined and presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture are indicated with a dagger (†); those who submitted video by a lower-case, italicized "v" (v); and those who submitted audio spectrograms or recordings by a lower-case, italicized "s" (s).

In this report, county names are italicized. We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records with this journal being the primary source of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans when documentations cover only a portion of the reported dates.

This report uses abbreviations for Chico Basin Ranch (CBR),

Lake (L.), Lamar Community College (LCC), Reservoir (Res.), State Park (SP) and State Wildlife Area (SWA).

Corrigendum: The dates for the *Boulder* Hoary Redpoll (2013-1) in the previous Committee report (Faulkner 2013) should be corrected to 29-30 December 2012. They were erroneously given as 29-30 January 2013. My thanks to Peter Gent for bringing attention to that error.

SPECIES ADDED TO THE STATE LIST

Mottled Duck – *Anas fulvigula* (1). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) noted two specimens taken in the state: one near Loveland, *Larimer*, 6 November 1907, and an adult male at Timnath Res., *Larimer*, 18 September 1962 (Denver Museum of Nature and Science [DMNS] #353 and #33794, respectively). It was on the basis of these specimens that Mottled Duck was originally placed on the Colorado state list when the Colorado Bird Records Committee (then, CFO Official Records Committee) was formed in 1972. However, the species was removed from the state list in 1979 when John Hubbard examined these specimens (Hubbard 1977) and considered them not to be of that species (Andrews 1979). However, further reading of Hubbard (1977) suggests otherwise. Hubbard (1977) states that the 1962 specimen (from Timnath Res.) appeared typical for Mottled Duck except that the bill was “mottled with paler coloration” similar to that of some Mallard x Mexican Duck hybrids. Further on the author states that Mottled Duck in Colorado “is represented from the northeastern part of that state by one apparently ‘pure’ specimen (collected in 1962),

two ‘nearly pure’ ones (in 1970 and 1933) and four apparent hybrids with [Mallard] (in 1939, 1944, 1947, and 1949)...furthermore, the juvenile specimen (1933) suggests that [Mottled-like] ducks breed in Colorado.” The additional specimens he refers to were from his assessment of reported Mexican Ducks collected in the state that he considered, instead of being Mexican Ducks, to have some combination of Mottled Duck and Mallard parentage. The CBRC Chair recently attempted to examine the 1962 specimen at the DMNS, but it could not be located by the museum staff during that visit. Further attempts will be made in the near future to re-examine the 1962 specimen and all specimens of Mottled-like ducks. In the meantime, the state’s first is represented by a male photographed at Andrick Ponds SWA, *Morgan*, 28-30 June 2013 (SM†, RHo; 2013-186; 7-0).

Mottled Duck is a year-round resident of coastal freshwater wetlands from Veracruz, Mexico, north along the Gulf of Mexico to Alabama, with a separate population in peninsular Florida. The two populations are isolated geographically and genetically from each other (McCracken et al. 2001). The species has also been introduced to coastal Georgia and

South Carolina using individuals from both populations (Stutzenbaker 1998, McCracken et al. 2001). The western and Florida populations have been considered separate subspecies (AOU 1957) with the Florida subspecies (*A. f. fulvigula*) exhibiting a greenish speculum bordered by a very thin single white bar and having a lightly streaked check and neck, and the western subspecies (*A. f. maculosa*) having a blue-green speculum bordered by a more noticeable single white bar and being more heavily streaked on the check and neck (Bellrose 1976). Photos and written documentation of the *Morgan* bird indicate that it had a blue-green speculum with a white border, thus placing it as the *A. f. maculosa* subspecies, the form expected to occur in Colorado. Individuals of the Florida subspecies are non-migratory and any reported in Colorado may rightfully be declined as valid records over concern of wild provenance.

Cave Swallow – *Petrochelidon fulva* (1). Leukering (2011) considered Cave Swallow to be a “stealth” vagrant to Colorado. That article nicely summarizes the status of Cave Swallow in the U.S., therefore its status will not be revisited here. It is also a worthy primer into the identification of juvenile Cave Swallow and any birder serious about finding this species in Colorado is encouraged read it. As noted in Leukering (2011), Cave Swallow has been reported in the state on multiple occasions since 2003. However, the CBRC has received documentation (2009-87) for only one of those reports prior to 2013, a report that the Committee did not accept as a state

record on a mixed 3-4 decision (Semo and Faulkner 2011).

The state’s first is represented by a juvenile photographed at Prewitt Res., Washington, 17 July 2013 (SM†; 2013-183; 6-1). The dissenting Committee member expressed concern that the photos were not conclusive for Cave Swallow, although the written description was supportive of that identification. In particular, two of the three photos showed the bird’s throat as darker than expected for Cave, although it appeared to be paler in the third photo. The reporting observer also noted that the photos made the throat darker than it was in real life – it was the light throat that initially attracted his attention among all of the Cliff Swallows. The CBRC bylaws section VIII C(10) states that a first state record can be established by a single observer documentation that includes photographic or audio-recorded evidence supportive of the identification. In this case the CBRC (on a 6-1 vote) accepts the photographic evidence as supportive of the identification, thereby establishing it as the first state record.

Hoary Redpoll – *Acanthis hornemanni* (6). Nearly 40 years after Jack Reddall made the statement “Hoary Redpolls should be expected in Colorado” in his 1973 CBRC report (Reddall 1973) Colorado not only obtained its first, but six records of this species from the massive redpoll invasion of winter 2012-13. The notice of one record (2013-1) had been published in a previous Committee report (Faulkner 2013), however, the species is also

included in this report to account for the additional records accepted by the CBRC.

In North America Hoary Redpoll is a high-arctic species that breeds in open tundra and winters at slightly lower latitudes in Alaska and Canada. A few individuals are occasionally found as far south as the Upper Midwest and New England states during the winter. Even its close congener, Common Redpoll, which breeds at more southerly climes and is a regular winter resident in states bordering Canada, is not a species that occurs annually in Colorado. Cairo and Righter (1987) listed Hoary Redpoll as a “Group IV – Unlikely Accidental” in their assessment of prospective new species for Colorado, citing its occasional occurrence in Wyoming and that it should be looked for “in northern Colorado during the winter in Redpoll invasion years.” Leukering and Semo (2008) provided a similar assessment, but Hoary Redpoll did not make it into the top 20 expected new species, although they note that Cairo and Righter’s “prediction has been hampered by the fact that there has not been a single large incursion of Common Redpolls into the state since 1987, and we feel that such a phenomenon would offer the best opportunity to find a Hoary.” The 2012-13 winter redpoll invasion apparently provided such an opportunity.

The CBRC has reviewed two previous documentations of redpolls reported as Hoary (Reddall 1973, Janos 1998), but neither was accepted based on possible confusion with Common Redpoll. During the winter 2012-13

redpoll invasion, the CBRC received 12 documentations for Hoary Redpoll. The CBRC solicited and received outside expert opinions for these reports. The table at the end of this report summarizes the six Hoary Redpoll records accepted for the state.

It should be noted that redpoll taxonomy is controversial and not yet resolved (see AOU 1998, Marthinsen et al. 2008). The CBRC does not make taxonomic determinations and it follows the authority of the American Ornithologists’ Union’s Committee on Classification and Nomenclature that currently separates the complex into two distinct species. A general consensus, however, is that some individuals show characteristics of both “species” and cannot be safely identified as either. Thus is the situation that the CBRC found itself in with the remaining six documentations. For each of those, either the outside expert opinions were not decisive, or at least two CBRC members concluded that the birds should be left unidentified to species.

Chronologically, the state’s first record is 2013-10. The record was represented by multiple individuals at the Discovery Museum, Ft. Collins, Larimer, 23 December 2012 – 26 January, 2013 (see Table 1). Photographic evidence supported the claim of multiple individuals based on sex and plumage differences. Given the month span that redpolls visited the site and the seemingly constant activity, the Committee has not attempted to determine how many individuals might have been involved – nor does it seem practical to do so.

SPECIES REMOVED FROM THE MAIN REVIEW LIST

One of the purposes of the CBRC is to collect records of species to better understand their status in the state. At the point when a pattern of occurrence has developed, each additional record for that species within that established pattern is of diminishing value. The CBRC uses a four-sightings-per-year criterion as a guide to when that tipping point has likely occurred. Sometimes, however, that point occurs before the criterion is met. The CBRC takes the criterion into consideration, but it is not bound to strictly adhere to that guideline when making decisions to remove species for the Main Review List.

Rationale for the CBRC's decisions to remove each of the following species from the Main Review List is provided along with its current status based on CBRC records. The accumulation of records that are outliers to a species known status can be informative, particularly in light of range-wide changes in geographic distribution, population size or timing of migration. Therefore, the CBRC may continue to ask for documentation for occurrences of these species that are outside the expected geographic range or seasonal date limits. The CBRC relies on a county-based system for obtaining such "outlier" records. The counties for which documentation is requested for these species has been updated on the CBRC website (www.coloradobirdrecords.org) under the tab "What to Report."

No attempt has been made to qualify a species' status as rare, uncom-

mon, etc. These terms are subjective and relative. As former Main Review List species, their status can be considered more on the rare end of the spectrum, however, none of them are "accidental" or "occasional." If anything Colorado is on the periphery of the majority of these species' migration routes through the interior U.S. Slight shifts in migration trajectory, for whatever reason, can bring fewer or greater numbers through the state such that relatively large numbers may be observed one year with the species completely absent the next. In general though, each of these species is considered to be a regular component of the state's avifauna.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Calidris subruficollis* (37). Buff-breasted Sandpiper has been known for the state since two specimens were collected at Barr Lake SP, Adams, 25 August 1910 (DMNS #465) and four September 1910 (DMNS #466). These specimens were taken out of flocks of three and five birds, respectively (Hersey 1911). Andrews and Righter (1992) corrected the date of the second individual to be the same as the first individual (25 August 1910), however, he gave no reason for that correction. It seems odd that Hersey, as collector of both birds and the author of the 1911 report, would not have known whether both birds were collected on the same day. A recent attempt by the Chair to review these specimens at the DMNS was unsuccessful as the museum staff was not able to locate them during that visit.

Although the CBRC has just 37 records for this species, nearly 60% of these records are concentrated in the northeastern quarter of the state along the Interstate 76 corridor. Northeastern Colorado counties with Buff-breasted Sandpiper records are: Adams (5), Logan (2), Morgan (8), Sedgwick (1) and Washington (6). All but two of the state's 37 records are of fall migrants. Since the CBRC records indicate a strong preference for Buff-breasted Sandpiper to migrate through northeastern Colorado during the fall, the CBRC chose to remove the species from the Main Review List.

Status summary: Buff-breasted Sandpiper is primarily a fall migrant in eastern Colorado, especially at reservoirs and lakes of the northeastern counties. The CBRC has no records for the San Luis Valley, West Slope or any of the high-elevation counties. The species has primarily occurred from 18 August – 13 September (29 records) whereas the full range of fall migration dates span 31 July – 6 October. The only spring migration records are of individuals in Pueblo, 27 April 1971, and Yuma, 11 May 1973. The CBRC has no records for June or November – March. The majority of records are of individuals or small groups of up to six juveniles that are observed for just one day. However, the species can be present for extended periods as witnessed by the multiple Buff-breasted Sandpipers observed at Jackson Res., Morgan, 21 August – 3 September 2012. It is unknown whether these dates pertained to the same birds or, more likely, if there was turnover of individuals during this period.

Laughing Gull – *Leucophaeus atricilla* (50). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) considered this species to be a rare straggler to the state based on a couple of reports from the late 1800s. The authors also note an apparent failed attempt to introduce this species to City Park, Denver, in the fall of 1962 when several juveniles were imported from the Gulf of Mexico. These birds stayed into January 1963 after which there is no mention of them. The next noted occurrence of the species was an adult, although it is unknown if it was one of the introduced birds or an authentic vagrant, at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe, 7-27 August 1964.

The first vetted records for this species are of individuals at two locations in 1974. Four individuals were noted at different locations in 1975. Laughing Gull has been nearly annual in Colorado since 1993 and many years have had multiple birds. The species is a well-known wanderer to the interior U.S. (Howell and Dunn 2007). The 50 Colorado records indicate that this species has been a regular visitor to the state, consistent with its tendency to wander inland. As noted in the introduction, the addition of more records for this species within its currently understood status in the state is of diminishing value. Misidentification of Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) is a possibility, although this is less of an issue as it is with other species.

Status summary: Laughing Gull is a visitor to the state from spring through early winter. The species is chiefly found between mid-April and mid-October. Two records each are

for November and December. Natural occurrences of this species have not been recorded for January, February or March. The distribution of records is primarily major lakes and reservoirs of the upper Front Range and along the South Platte River and Arkansas River corridors. The CBRC has a lone record for the San Luis Valley in *Saguache*, 18 August 2012 and none for the West Slope or high-elevation counties.

Blue-headed Vireo – *Vireo solitarius* (46). Blue-headed Vireo was considered conspecific with Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*) and Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*) until 1997 when the American Ornithologists' Union split Solitary Vireo into three recognized species (AOU 1997). Prior to the split, Colorado had just one record of the blue-headed subspecies – a specimen collected near Hale, *Yuma*, 6 October 1982 (DMNS #38518). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) does not mention blue-headed, although it provides records for the other two subspecies. Andrews and Righter (1992) notes the 1982 specimen as the only record for the state.

Since 1997 the species has been recorded annually except for 2001. It's likely that Blue-headed Vireo occurred in the state on an annual basis prior to 1997, but received little to no attention from birders given its status at that time as conspecific with the Plumbeous Vireo. The species has been recorded frequently in recent years. The highest number recorded in a single year was eight in 2012, followed by six in 2009 and 2010. Given the 46 records since its

accession to species status in 1997, its annual occurrence since (and likely preceding) the species split and the large number of recent annual records, the CBRC decided that the species no longer warrants placement on the Main Review List. Possible confusion with Cassin's Vireo does exist and the CBRC cautions observers to be careful with identifying individuals that are not bright adults. Some dull individuals may not be satisfactorily identified to species (however frustrating that might be to county listers).

Status summary: Blue-headed Vireo is a spring and fall migrant along the Front Range and eastern plains. The West Slope has a single record – Dennis Weaver Town Park, *Ouray*, 8 October 2011. The CBRC has no records for high-elevation counties or the San Luis Valley. Of the CBRC's 46 records, only six are from the spring migration period. Five of these records are from 6-19 May, with the lone outlier for 16 June. The remaining 40 records are of fall migrants from 1 September – 25 October. The vast majority of records are of individuals observed for only one day. The CBRC has no records for January - April, July, August, November or December.

Philadelphia Vireo – *Vireo philadelphicus* (69). Although no specimens exist for Colorado, Bailey and Niedrach (1965) notes that the species was reported by "skilled" observers in the 1950s and 1960s, including one banded near Sedalia, *Douglas*, 8 September 1963. None of these are current state records.

With inception of the CBRC in 1971, the species has been recorded

regularly, albeit not annually. Colorado birders witnessed a phenomenal year in 2012 when an unprecedented 23 Philadelphia Vireos were documented and accepted by the CBRC. Most of these were accompanied by photographs allowing the CBRC to distinguish individuals that were geographically and temporally close. Given the number of state records (69) and the massive influx of the species in 2012, the CBRC decided that the species no longer warranted attention on the Main Review List.

Status summary: Philadelphia Vireo is a spring and fall migrant across eastern Colorado. The CBRC has one record for *Gunnison*, 18 August 1972, for the lone record away from the Front Range or eastern plains. Spring records constitute about a quarter of all records indicating that the species is more of a fall migrant than a spring migrant through the state. Spring records are from a narrow one-month period from 7 May – 3 June. Fall migration, as is typical for most species, is more widespread with records spread from 18 August – 19 October. The CBRC has no records for July or November through April.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Catharus minimus* (66). Gray-cheeked Thrush has been reported in Colorado since the late 1950s and 1960s (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). The authors further noted that the species is a “regular transient through Nebraska and Kansas” and that “a few of the species may filter regularly in migration across the eastern plains of Colorado, and that the lack of earlier records may have resulted from failure of birders to

recognize them.” Recently Colorado birders have apparently taken notice.

The species has been recorded annually with the exception of two years since 1992. Of the state’s 66 records, 54 came within this 22-year span. Far more have been reported by skilled observers than documented to the CBRC, suggesting that birders have become fatigued with documenting a species that occurs in the state annually in small numbers. Generally speaking, when a species is documented more than a few times for multiple years, the CBRC needs to consider the value of having that species on the Main Review List. For Gray-cheeked Thrush, years with relatively high numbers of records include: 2013 (7), 2012 (4), 2006 (8), 1996 (5) and 1976 (6), and many years in between have had two to four records each. Therefore the CBRC has removed Gray-cheeked Thrush from the Main Review List due to its status as an annual, in small numbers, component of the state’s spring migration avifauna.

Status summary: Gray-cheeked Thrush is primarily a spring migrant in eastern Colorado. Records have been obtained along the entire Front Range and eastward to the state border. The CBRC has no records for the San Luis Valley, West Slope or any high-elevation county. Sixty-two of the state’s records occurred between 27 April and 4 June. This date span is a bit misleading as there are only three records for April and just one for June. The majority of records (37) are tightly grouped in a two-week window from 10-23 May. The CBRC has four fall records for 16, 24 and 28 Septem-

ber and 11 October. The CBRC has no records for November-March, July or August. Most records are of individuals. During years with larger than expected numbers, two to three birds may be found at a single site.

Sprague's Pipit – *Anthus spragueii* (16). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) considers this species to be an uncommon straggler through the state. Notably, several of the sightings mentioned by the authors are from May and July. Juvenile Horned Larks are easily mistaken for this species and any individuals resembling Sprague's Pipit in late spring or summer should be carefully studied. Spring migration typically occurs throughout April in Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1992) and Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001). Colorado's two spring records are from late April.

Sprague's Pipit had a meteoric rise starting in October 2004 when multiple birds were found near Hale, *Yuma*. Since then, birders have made focused excursions to *Yuma* and other eastern counties to look for the species in late fall. *Yuma* has produced seven of the state's 10 records since 2004. Unfortunately, these annual fall campaigns have been too successful and resulted in a deleterious side effect – the CBRC received fewer and fewer documentations as the years went by. Colorado birders consider the species to be regular on the far eastern grasslands in late fall, and the CBRC agrees. The species is a regular migrant through the Great Plains and eastern Colorado is on the edge of its normal migratory pathway. While the number of records are fewer than we might like in order

to remove a Main Review List species, the regularity with which this species has been found in appropriate habitat and time of year leads us to conclude that its status has been satisfactorily established as a regular migrant.

Status Summary: Sprague's Pipit is a spring and fall migrant on the eastern plains. As with any species on the periphery of its Great Plains migratory pathway, Sprague's Pipit is expected to occur with decreasing frequency as one travels westward from the Kansas border to the Front Range. The species has not been recorded for the San Luis Valley, West Slope or high-elevation counties. Away from the eastern plains, *Larimer* and *Boulder* have one and two records, respectively. Fall migrants have been recorded from 23 August – 19 October, although the early date is the only one for August and September has just three records for the 14th, 29th and 30th. The CBRC has two spring records, both from late April. The species has not been recorded for November-March or May-July.

Golden-winged Warbler – *Vermivora chrysoptera* (39). Sometimes the CBRC gets it wrong. The Committee removed this species in 2001 (Semo et al. 2002). The CBRC returned it to the Main Review List in 2012 since it appeared at the time that the species was occurring less regularly in the state than other species that were on the Main Review List (Faulkner 2012). However, 2013 proved us wrong as that spring produced four records. Upon further reflection, the species is thus removed, again, from the Main Review List.

Cave Swallow, Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, 17 July 2013.
Photo by Steve Mlodinow



Hoary Redpoll, North Sterling Reservoir, Logan County, 13 February 2013.
Photo by Steve Mlodinow



Mottled Duck, Andrick Ponds, Morgan County, 28 July 2013. Photo by Steve Mlodinow



Status summary: Golden-winged Warbler is a spring and fall migrant in eastern Colorado. Most records are of birds observed along the Front Range and eastern plains. Occasionally, one has been found at higher elevations (for instance, Rocky Mountain NP, *Larimer*, 4 July 1974) or in western portions of the state. The CBRC has single records for *Conejos*, *Gunnison* and *La Plata*. The species is more regularly found during spring migration from 1 May – 9 June. The CBRC has two July records, including a successful nesting attempt at Roxborough SP, *Jefferson*, in 1993 and the aforementioned *Larimer* individual. Five fall records are for 20, 24 and 25 August, and 14 and 28 September. Note, however, that the species was not on the Main Review List from 2001-12, so additional valid sightings of this species may not have been documented to the Committee during that period.

Red Fox Sparrow – *Passerella iliaca iliaca/zaboria* (30). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) considers the *P. i. zaboria* subspecies a rare straggler on the eastern slope, while discounting the notion that *P. i. iliaca* occurs in the state. Specimens reported in Bailey and Niedrach (1965) are from the fall and winter seasons. Andrews and Righter (1992) considers the “rusty form” of Fox Sparrow, which the authors denoted inclusive of both subspecies, as a rare visitor to the eastern plains from late October through mid-April.

The CBRC has 30 records for this form, all since 2000. The Committee has made no attempt to verify the existence of the specimens noted in Bailey and Niedrach (1965, and referenc-

es therein) or Andrews and Righter (1992), which most likely would add to the state’s record count. The accession of Red Fox Sparrow (the “reddish birds whose breeding range encompasses the Canadian taiga part of the complex’s whole breeding range” [Leukering and Wood 2002]) to the Main Review List was formalized in 2003 (Semo et al. 2002). This was an attempt to gather records in anticipation of a split of Fox Sparrow into two or more species. Based on the number of records gathered in a relatively short time period, and on the consistency in seasonality that these records occur (see Status Summary), the CBRC decided that it had enough information regarding the status of Red Fox Sparrow to remove this form from the Main Review List. The action taken in 2003 by then-Chair Tony Leukering has achieved its purpose. Should the Red Fox Sparrow be recognized as a formal species, its occurrence in the state has been well documented.

Status Summary: Red Fox Sparrow is a spring and fall migrant in eastern Colorado, with very few individuals extending their stays into the winter season. The CBRC has single records from *Delta*, *La Plata* and *Ourray* during fall migration, and none from the San Luis Valley or high-elevation counties. The species is most often found in late fall as 21 of the state’s 29 records are from 8 October – 30 November. Even when found at residential feeders where individuals might be enticed to stay for longer periods, the species is generally reported for just a day or two indicating that most individuals during this period are migrants. The

longest-staying documented individual was at a residential feeder near Lyons, *Larimer*, 1-29 January 2010. The CBRC received documentation (for 4 February, 2011 only) of a bird reportedly found on the Boulder Christmas Bird Count, 19 December 2010, and last observed 7 March 2011. The CBRC has single records for 5 and 23 April that likely pertained to north-bound migrants.

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (42). The species has been considered an uncommon transient (Bailey and Niedrach 1965) and a very rare migrant and winter visitor (Andrews and Righter 1992). Individuals have been reported since 1889 (Osburn 1893) and multiple specimens have been collected since the early 1900s.

The CBRC has 42 records of this species, although nine of these records pertain to three individuals that overwintered at their respective locations for three consecutive years. Birders will be familiar with these birds as the ones at Teller Farms, *Boulder*, at Tunnel Drive, *Fremont* and at Red Rocks Trading Post, *Jefferson*. It's important to note that a record consists of three main parts: individual(s), location, and date. All three of these criteria need to be unique to be considered an independent record. Even though the *Fremont*, *Jefferson*, and *Boulder* individuals left their respective sites for lengthy periods of time (presumably to return to their summer breeding grounds) and did not return until the following winter, each recurrence

should be considered an extension of the original sighting and not a new record. The Chair will consolidate the occurrences of each of these birds into single records. Therefore, discounting the subsequent years these birds were documented following the initial sightings, Colorado has 36 unique records. This species did not meet the average of four sightings per year guidance that the CBRC uses as a metric to determine when a species may not need to be on the Main Review List. Regardless, the CBRC considered that the species has been annual the past nine years, including some years with multiple individuals (even beyond the ones noted above). The accumulation of more records for this species would not further our knowledge of its status in the state, therefore the CBRC will remove it from the Main Review List.

Status Summary: Golden-crowned Sparrow occurs statewide from late fall through early spring. Some birds may be migrants passing through the state, while others overwinter. The first individuals typically arrive in mid-October, however, the CBRC has two records prior to then for 24 September and 1 October. The CBRC has nine records (of individuals not known to have overwintered) for the spring migration period from 19 April – 15 May. Golden-crowned Sparrows have been recorded throughout Colorado, except for the northwestern quadrant north of Interstate 70 and west of *Larimer*. The species has not been recorded in June, July or August.

Table 1. Recently accepted records

| Species | Accession # | # Birds | Location | County | Dates | Observers | Vote |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | 2013-193 | 2 | Jackson Res. | Morgan | 30 Aug 2013 | <u>JD</u> | 7-0 |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | 2013-210 | 2 | Jackson Res. | Morgan | 13 Sep 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Laughing Gull | 2013-172 | 1 | Big Johnson Res. | El Paso | 30 Jun 2013 | JD†, BK, BM†, BKP† | 7-0 |
| Laughing Gull | 2013-184 | 1 | Prewitt Res. | Washington | 14 Jul 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Laughing Gull | 2013-188 | 1 | Luna Res. | Weld | 3 Aug 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Laughing Gull | 2013-191 | 1 | Jackson Res. | Morgan | 31 Aug 2013 | NK† | 7-0 |
| Laughing Gull | 2013-235 | 1 | Pueblo Res. | Pueblo | 1 Sep 2013 | <u>BKP†</u> , RH† | 7-0 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 2013-9 | 1 | LCC | Prowers | 28 Sep 2012 | JSt | 7-0 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 2013-33 | 1 | Wray Fish Hatchery | Yuma | 30 Sep 2012 | KMD | 7-0 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 2013-15 | 1 | Boulder | Boulder | 11 Oct 2012 | <u>NM</u> | 7-0 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 2013-206 | 1 | Jackson SP | Morgan | 2 Sep 2013 | <u>SM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-53 | 1 | LCC | Prowers | 15 May 2011 | JSt | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-206 | 1 | Barr L. SP | Adams | 21 Aug 2012 | <u>DE†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-204 | 1 | Prewitt Res. SWA | Washington | 9 Sep 2012 | <u>DD†</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-172 | 1 | Holyoke | Phillips | 16 Sep 2012 | <u>SM†</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-169 | 1 | Thompson Ranch | Lincoln | 21 Sep 2012 | <u>GW†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-173 | 1 | Holyoke | Phillips | 22 Sep 2012 | <u>SM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-174 | 1 | Last Chance | Washington | 27 Sep 2012 | <u>SM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-177 | 1 | CBR | El Paso | 27 Sep 2012 | NG†, BM†, <u>SB</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-31 | 1 | Thompson Ranch | Lincoln | 28 Sep 2012 | <u>KMD†</u> , <u>JK</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-32 | 1 | Flagler SWA | Kit Carson | 28 Sep 2012 | <u>KMD†</u> , <u>JK</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-170 | 1 | CBR | Pueblo | 5 Oct 2012 | <u>JD†</u> , BKP† | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-178 | 1 | CBR | Pueblo | 5 Oct 2012 | <u>JD†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-171 | 1 | Pueblo | Pueblo | 6 Oct 2012 | <u>BKP†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-189 | 1 | Fox Ranch | Yuma | 6 Oct 2012 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-175 | 1 | Chatfield SP | Douglas | 7 Oct 2012 | <u>GW</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-176 | 1 | Pueblo | Pueblo | 8 Oct 2012 | <u>BKP†</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2012-179 | 1 | Ft. Collins | Larimer | 8-9 Oct 2012 | <u>NK†</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-151 | 1 | Two Buttes SWA | Baca | 10-11 May 2013 | NK†, RO†, BKP†, GW†, <u>MP</u> | 7-0 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-200 | 1 | Lyons | Boulder | 24 May 2013 | <u>CS†</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-205 | 1 | Prewitt Res. SWA | Washington | 10 Sep 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 6-1 |

| Species | Accession # | # Birds | Location | County | Dates | Observers | Vote |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-211 | 1 | Wray | Yuma | 18 Sep 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 6-1 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2013-228 | 1 | Ft. Collins | Larimer | 19 Sep 2013 | <u>BB†</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-279 | 1 | Bonny L. SP | Yuma | 11 May 1996 | <u>TL†</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-270 | 1 | Lakewood | Adams | 12 May 2002 | <u>NL</u> | 6-1 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-284 ¹ | 1 | Lamar | Prowers | 1-11 May 2013 | <u>JS†</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-140 | 1 | Tempel Grove | Bent | 10 May 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-141 | 1 | Two Buttes SWA | Baca | 11 May 2013 | <u>SM, MP</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-142 | 1 | Last Chance | Washington | 12 May 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-158 | 1 | CBR | El Paso | 22 May 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-215 | 1 | Colorado City | Pueblo | 24 Sep 2013 | <u>DS</u> | 7-0 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 2013-219 | 1 | Hale | Yuma | 28 Sep 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 6-1 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 2013-147 | 1 (male) | Stalker L. SWA | Yuma | 18 May 2013 | <u>BKP</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 2013-156 | 1 (female) | Stalker L. SWA | Yuma | 18 May 2013 | <u>SM</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 2013-157 | 1 | Wray | Yuma | 25 May 2013 | <u>SMT†</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 2013-162 | 1 | CBR | El Paso | 1 Jun 2013 | <u>BKP†, BM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2013-54 | 1 | Near Lyons | Larimer | 1-29 Jan 2010 | <u>JSu†, MS</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2012-208 | 1 | Loveland | Larimer | 16 Nov 2012 | <u>SW†, DB</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2013-5 | 1 | Pueblo NC | Pueblo | 24 Nov 2012 | <u>BKP†</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2012-202 | 1 | Walden Ponds | Boulder | 27 Nov 2012 | <u>DD†, JB</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2013-6 | 1 | Barr L. SP | Adams | 16 Dec 2012 – 4 Jan 2013 | <u>SMT†, DF†</u> | 7-0 |
| Red Fox Sparrow | 2013-294 | 1 | Mancos | Montezuma | 7-8 Dec 2013 | <u>GSM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2012-199 | 1 | Centennial Park | Arapahoe | 10 Oct 2012 | <u>AH</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-144 | 1 | Durango Fish Hatchery | La Plata | 21-25 Oct 2012 | <u>RM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2012-195 ² | 1 | Red Rocks | Jefferson | 26 Oct 2012 – 21 March 2013 | <u>MH†, LC†, DF†, SM†</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-40 | 1 | Loveland | Larimer | 8-16 Nov 2012 | <u>SW†</u> | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-8 ² | 1 | Teller Farms | Boulder | 3 Jan 2013 | <u>DD†, DF†, BG, SM</u> | 7-0 |

Table 1, continued. Recently accepted records

| Species | Accession # | # Birds | Location | County | Dates | Observers | Vote |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---|------------------------------------|----------|
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-132 | 1 | Near Durango | La Plata | 27 Apr 2013 | <u>TM</u> | 6-1 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-242 | 1 | Nucla | Montrose | 27-28 Apr 2013 | CD† | 7-0 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2013-190 | 1 | Lamar | Prowers | 9-13 May 2013 | <u>JSt</u> †, BKP† | 7-0 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-1 | 1 | Longmont | Boulder | 29-30 Dec 2012 | <u>BSct</u> †, PG†, SM† | 7-0 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-10 ³ | Multiple | Ft. Collins | Larimer | 23 Dec 2012 – 26 Jan 2013 | <u>TH</u> , KMD, RH†, BM†, MM, SM† | 7-0 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-67 | 1 | Walden | Jackson | 26 Jan 2013 | <u>SM</u> † | 5-2, 6-1 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-71 | 1 | Lamar | Bent | 21 Jan 2013 – last date not established | <u>LG</u> † | 6-1 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-78 | 1 | North Sterling SP | Logan | 3 Mar 2013 | <u>SM</u> † | 7-0 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 2013-80 | 1 | North Sterling SP | Logan | 3 Mar 2013 | <u>SM</u> † | 6-1 |

¹ = 8-day gap between observations suggests that two different birds may have been involved

² = returning individual from previous year

³ = first state record by date

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Call for Papers—CFO Convention 2014

The annual convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists will be held Thursday Aug. 28 to Monday Sept. 1 in Sterling, Colorado. We invite proposals for presentations to be given during the scientific paper session on Saturday afternoon. Speakers will have 20 minutes to present their topics and lead question-and-answer sessions. Topics of interest include ongoing research into Colorado birds or their habitats, advances in field identification of Colorado birds and new information regarding their status or distribution. Submit abstracts to Christy Carello (carello@msudenver.edu) by May 15.