

# The 72nd Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

*Mark Peterson, Chair Colorado Birds Records Committee, and Bill Maynard, volunteer*

## Introduction

This 72nd report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 276 reports submitted by 112 observers and documenting of 95 species from the period May 1979 to April 2015. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted records received a final 7-0 or 6-1 vote to accept.

A backlog of accumulated records needs to be published before they become official, therefore only sightings of species representing first county records, taxa with very few Colorado records and reasons for a report not being accepted by the CBRC are detailed in this report. With this publication, Vaux's Swift becomes Colorado's 499th official bird species. All other records in this report are by necessity limited in details.

Committee members voting on these reports were John Drummond (Colorado Springs) Doug Faulkner (Arvada) Peter Gent (Boulder) Tony Leukering (Largo, Florida) Bill Maynard (Colorado Springs) Dan Maynard (Denver) Mark Peterson (Colorado Springs) Bill Schmoker (Longmont) and Glenn Walbek (Castle Rock).

The 71st report erroneously stated that the White Ibis (2013-182) observed in *Alamosa*, 28 July 2013, was a first for the San Luis Valley. It is not only the second for the San Luis Valley, but also the second for *Alamosa*. The first record is of one at Blanca Wetlands, 5 May 1998. We thank John Rawinski for bringing this error to our attention.

## Committee News

The CBRC continues to recruit excellent members from the local birding community.

Mark Peterson is the new chairperson of the CBRC replacing Doug Faulkner, Colorado Field Ornithologists' newest president. Mark has extensive birding experience throughout the state. He has been birding since five years of age remembering singing Yellow-headed Blackbirds (his current ringtone) and going to the Crane Festival at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge from his home in Waverly, Colorado. Mark is known as an excellent birder, the CFO County List Master, a past CFO board member and Convention Field Trip Coordinator.

Dan Maynard, replacing Mark Peterson on the CBRC, was born in Manitou Springs. He currently lives in Denver where he works on renewable energy projects as the Senior Ecologist for Core Consultants. When he isn't speeding across Colorado in pursuit of a Big Year or Big Day, Dan can be found fly fishing, doing yoga or leading a technical rock climbing route on a pitch in Colorado or Utah.

### Committee Functions

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its Main Review List ([coloradobirdrecords.org/ReviewList.aspx](http://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 ([coloradobirdrecords.org](http://coloradobirdrecords.org)). Alternatively, one can fill out the form printed on the dust jacket of this journal and mail it to the CBRC Chair, or request an electronic 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) *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) through the 56<sup>th</sup> Supplement (Chesser et al. 2015). 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 (†) and those who submitted a sketch by a lower-case, italicized "sk" (*sk*). In this report, county names are italicized. Abbreviations are used for the following: reservoir (Res.) state park (SP) and state wildlife area (SWA).

### ACCEPTED RECORDS

With the publication of this report, Colorado's state bird list stands at 499 species. Only Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, New Mexico, Or-

egon, and Texas have more. The newest addition to the state list is **Vaux's Swift** – *Chaetura vauxi* (2015-46; 7-0) with a well-photographed individual reported by Brandon Percival west



eBird data showing migrant Vaux's Swift wintering records from southeastern U.S. and from various locations in western New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, in addition to western breeding areas. Image provided by eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) 10 August 2015.

of Cottonwood Picnic area along the Arkansas River, below Pueblo Reservoir Dam, Pueblo on 28 April 2015. The CBRC bylaws section VIII C (10) states 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 accepts the photographic evidence as supportive of the identification, thereby establishing it as the first state record.

Vaux's Swift is named for William S. Vaux (1811–1882) a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and it was described by John K. Townsend in 1839 from specimens collected along the Columbia River. Vaux's Swifts (*C. v. vauxi*) breed in northwestern U.S., Canada, and possibly in northeastern Mexico

(*C. v. tamaulipensis*). Small numbers of North American breeders winter in the U.S. from central California south and also in southeastern Louisiana and in northwest Florida (*Birds of North America*).

The Committee commented on the quality of the photographs, date of migration for this species compared with Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) and the details of the report separating it from Chimneys. Experts from outside Colorado were consulted, and they too validated this report as a Vaux's Swift. Tom Johnson's thorough analysis of these two *Chaetura* swifts, including a "modified aspect ratio" approach and nine characters to look for in separating these two species, occurs in the print version of the September/October 2013 *Birding*, pp. 48-52.

**Brant** – *B. b. nigricans*. (JTh†,

DD†, EL†, SGM; 2012-207; 7-0) Loveland area, *Larimer*, 3-18 December 2012; (SGM; 2013-13; 7-0) Jackson Lake, *Morgan*, 23 December 2012; (NM†; 2013-16; 7-0) providing a first for *Otero* found during the Rocky Ford CBC at Lake Cheraw, 15 December 2011; (RBe†; 2014-4; 7-0) *Larimer*, Prospect Ponds Natural Area, 31 December 2013.

**Brant** – *Branta bernicla*. The following three documented Brant were all unanimously accepted as Brant but not to any specific taxon. They came from Redstone Park and Chatfield State Park, *Douglas*, Greeley, *Weld* and Equalizer Lake and Houts Reservoir, *Larimer*. (EDo†, JH†, BM†, CN†, KPe†, TR†, CW†, SS; 2013-290; 7-0) 15 December 2013 to 19 February 2014; (SGM; SW; 2014-12; 7-0) 15 January 2014; (SB†, SGM†; 2014-20; 7-0) 25 October 2013 to 11 November 2013.

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Cygnus buccinator* (BS†, NL; 2013-47; 6-1) McKay Lake, *Adams*, 13-19 January 2002.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Anas penelope* (RBr; 2012-197; 7-0) Colorado River, *Mesa*, 15 March 2010; (JD†, BKP†, RMi†, DM; 2012-214; 7-0) Willow and Ash St. 16 and 23 December 2011 thru 1 January 2012 at Centennial Park, *Fremont*; (SGM†; 2013-256; 7-0) *Weld*, 20 March 2013; (JTr†; 2013-260; 7-0) Riverfront trail at 29 Road, *Mesa*, 27 April 2013; (HK†, KPe†; 2014-41; 7-0) Walker Pit, *Douglas*, 15-16 March 2014.

**Long-tailed Duck** – *Clangula hyemalis* (BKP†, SM; 2013-104; 7-0) Brush Hollow Reservoir, *Fremont*, 20 January 2012.

**Red-necked Grebe** – *Podiceps griseogena* (LF†, CH†; 2013-181; 7-0) Lake John, *Jackson*, 10-14 July 2013.

**Neotropic Cormorant** – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (RHi†; 2013-112; 7-0) Valco Ponds SWA, *Pueblo*, 5 April 2013; (SGM; 2013-130; 7-0) Stewarts Pond on WCR 46, *Weld*, 14 April 2013; (SGM†; 2013-159; 7-0) Weld County Road 7 entry road to St Vrain State Park, *Weld*, 15 May 2013.

**Least Bittern** – *Ixobrychus exilis* (RMi; 2012-203; 7-0) Holcim Wetlands, *Fremont*. 25 July 2012; (BKM; 2013-165; 7-0) NE pond of Sawhill Ponds complex, *Boulder*, 13 June 2013.

**Tricolored Heron** – *Egretta tricolor* (JD†, BKP†, SGM†, SM; 2013-167; 7-0) Holcim Wetlands, *Fremont* 14 June 2013 to 3 July 2013; (JD†, BM†; 2013-171; 7-0) Lake Hasty, *Bent*, 22 June 2013.

**Reddish Egret** – *Egretta rufescens* (DD†, DN; 2013-265; 7-0) Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, 13 July 2013; (JSt†; 2014-38; 7-0) John Martin Reservoir State Park, *Bent*; 20-22 August 2013.

**Cattle Egret** – *Bubulcus ibis* (BBa†; 2013-245; 7-0) Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*, 1 November 2013.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Nyctanassa violacea* (LH†; 2010-183; 6-1) *Larimer*, 5 September 2005; (HK†; 2013-110; 6-1) Chatfield State Park, *Jefferson*, 19 May 1979; (DD†, JD†, BM†, BP†, RT, KL; 2013-222; 7-0) Birdsall Road, *El Paso*, 5-13 October 2013; (WG, BM†; 2014-24; 7-0) Carp Lake, *El Paso*, 26-27 August 2005.

**Common Black Hawk** – *Buteo galus anthracinus* (JBS; 2013-249; 7-0) Hotchkiss, *Delta*, 5 April 2013.

**Black Rail** – *Laterallus jamaicensis* (MP; 2013-229; 7-0) Holcim Wetlands, Fremont, 15 June 2013.

**Whimbrel** – *Numenius phaeopus* (MH; 2013-252; 7-0) Fruitgrowers Reservoir, Delta, 20 May 2000.

**Hudsonian Godwit** – *Limosa haemastica* (DD†, GP; 2014-37; 7-0) Beebe Draw, Weld, 21-23 May 2013.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – *Calidris subruficollis* (DD†; 2014-18; 7-0) Jackson Reservoir, Morgan, 21 August 2013.

**American Woodcock** – *Scolopax minor* (DG†; 2013-282; 7-0) specimen recovered at UCC Campus, El Paso, 9 February 2013; (CT†, BM†, BKP†; 2014-21; 7-0) Fountain Creek, El Paso, 9 February 2014; (KPa†; 2014-31; 7-0) Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso, 15 January 2013.

**Red Phalarope** – *Phalaropus fulicarius* (CDe†; 2013-101; 7-0) Ridgway Reservoir, Ouray, 20 August 2012.

**Pomarine Jaeger** – *Stercorarius pomarinus* (EDe†, JD†, BM†; 2013-169; 7-0) Antero Reservoir, Park, 11-17 June 2013; (GW†, KPe†; 2014-27; 7-0) Chatfield State Park, Douglas and Jefferson, 16-26 October 2013; (DN†; 2014-39; 7-0) Blue Lake (Adobe Creek Reservoir) Kiowa, 18 June 2013.

**Parasitic Jaeger** – *Stercorarius parasiticus* (GK, GW†, DN; 2014-28; 7-0) Blue Lake (Adobe Creek Reservoir) Bent and Kiowa, 4-9 November 2013.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** – *Rissa tridactyla* (MH†; 2013-262; 7-0) Highline Lake State Park, Mesa, 19-20 November 2013.

**Sabine's Gull** – *Xema sabini* (TLe†; 2014-14; 7-0) Eleven Mile State Park, Park, 29 October 2005.

**Little Gull** – *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (NK†, SW; 2012-200; 7-0) Windsor Lake, Weld, 2 December 2012; (MO, CT; 2013-109; 7-0) Lake Meredith, Crowley, 7 April 2013; (BM†, BKP†, RMO; 2013-220; 7-0) Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, 4-9 October 2013; (SGM, PG, NK†; 2013-243; 7-0) Terry Lake and Clark Reservoir, Boulder, 30 October thru 3 November 2013.

**Mew Gull** – *Larus canus* (TLe†, LK; 2014-19; 7-0) Cherry Creek State Park, Arapahoe, 27 September 2008.

**Western Gull** (4)– *Larus occidentalis* (SGM; 2013-239; 7-0) A well described but un-photographed adult dark-mantled gull found at Timnath Reservoir, Larimer, 5 October 2013 was compared with Herring, Lesser Black-backed and California Gulls. Committee members felt that all essential and secondary features were noted to separate congeners.

**Iceland Gull** – *Larus glaucoides* (JVv, TLe; 2002-75; 7-0) Erie landfill north of Hwy 7, Prince Lakes, Erie and Thomas Reservoirs, Boulder, 9-18 April 2000; (DD†, NL, GW†; 2013-43; 7-0) Teller Lake No. 5 and Culver Ponds, Boulder, 1-2 February 2013; (BKP†; 2013-61; 7-0) Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, 3 January 2013; (LMA†; 2013-93; 6-1) Anthem Pond, Broomfield, 26 January 2013; (SGM†; 2013-124; 6-1) Stewarts Pond, Weld, 31 March 2013; (SGM; 2013-126; 7-0) Black Hollow Reservoir, Weld, 3 April 2013; (NK; 2014-5; 7-0) Lake Loveland, Larimer, 30 December thru 2 January 2014; (SGM†; 2014-36; 7-0) Woods Lake, Weld, 19 February 2014; (DD†, SGM; 2014-42; 7-0) Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe, 19-29 January 2014.

**Slaty-backed Gull (2)** – *Larus schistisagus* (DD†, SGM†, KPe†; 2014-8; 7-0) Aurora Reservoir Arapahoe hosted an adult Slaty-backed Gull 15 December 2013 through 3 January 2014. Although the wintering gull showed an un-streaked white head, it also showed the characteristic “string of pearls,” the bold pattern of white mirrors and tongue tips seen on the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the outer primaries in flight, broad white trailing edge to the secondaries (skirt) dark slate-gray mantle, broad white scapular and tertial crescents and bright pink legs and feet, all characteristics of this very rare visitor from Asia. Comparison with a look-alike “Vega Gull”, was noted (longer wings, thinner bill, lighter gray mantle, noticeable contrast between black wing-tips and upperparts) eliminating that taxon. Distant, but distinct photographs on different dates were key for this second Colorado and first county record.

**Herring Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull** – (DD†; 2013-51; 7-0) Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) regularly interbreed in southwest Alaska and their hybrids increasingly occur along the North American Pacific Coast south to California (Howell and Dunn. 2007). An apparent first year hybrid was well photographed from Teller Lake No. 5, Boulder, 24 January 2014. The identification indicators given in the report specify prominent wing patterning and patches of a lighter color on a mostly-black bill resembling a dark Glaucous-winged Gull or a washed out Herring Gull.

The observer thought this bird, based on detailed photographic comparison, was the same gull reported from Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo on 29 December 2012.

**Glaucous-winged Gull** – *Larus glaucescens* (SGM; 2013-35; 6-1) Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, 1 January 2013; (SGM, TLe; 2013-77; 7-0) Valmont Reservoir, Boulder, 27 January 2013; (DD†; 2013-264; 7-0) Neegronda Reservoir, Kiowa, 10 August 2013; (SGM; 2013-267; 7-0) Windsor Reservoir, Weld, 13 November 2013; (SGM; 2013-268; 7-0) Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe, 24 November 2013; (SGM†; 2013-280; 7-0) Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, 11-12 December 2013; (SGM†; 2014-10; 7-0) Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe, 3 January 2014; (BKP; 2014-29; 7-0) Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, 15 February 2014.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Larus marinus* (CM†; 2013-108; 6-1) Cherry Creek State Park, Arapahoe, 23 January 2011; (NK†; 2013-261; 7-0) Horseshoe Lake, Larimer, 17 April 2013.

**Arctic Tern** – *Sterna paradisaea* (GW†, DD; 2013-213; 7-0) Cherry Creek State Park, Arapahoe, 23 September 2013; (SGM; 2013-217; 7-0) Terry Lake and Clark Reservoir, Boulder, 29 September 2013.

**Inca Dove** – *Columbina inca* (BKP†; 2006-190; 7-0) Rocky Ford, Otero, 16 April 2005; (CA; 2013-37; 6-1) Cottonwood Canyon, Baca, 17 May 2012; (JSt†; 2014-16; 7-0) Farmyard, Prowers, 14 October 2005.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (JBr†; 2013-209; 7-0) this first for Adams County was found

at Barr Lake State Park, 14 September 2013.

**Snowy Owl** – *Bubo scandiacus* (KMD, JK†; 2014-32; 7-0) HWY 94 and LCR 11, *Lincoln*, 26 January 2014.

**Boreal Owl** – *Aegolius funereus* (DJ, TM†; 2013-72; 7-0) southeast of Silverton, *San Juan*, 16 July 2009.

**Lesser Nighthawk** – *Chordeiles acutipennis* (SGM; 2013-178; 7-0) Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Kiowa*, 22 June 2013.

**Magnificent Hummingbird** – *Eugenes fulgens* (MB; 2012-153; 7-0) for the third year in a row this bird was found at Tunnel Campground, *Larimer*, 16 July 2012.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – *Archilochus colubris* (SW†, NK†; 2012-181; 7-0) Walters residence, south Loveland, *Larimer*, 12-13 September 2012; (MM; 2013-139; 6-1) South Mesa Trail, *Boulder*, 13 May 2013; (DS; 2013-202; 7-0) Colorado City and Rye, *Pueblo*, 1 September 2013; (JS†; 2013-225; 7-0) Farmyard, *Prowers*, 28-29 September 2013; (RHo†; 2013-231; 7-0) Long Pond, *Larimer*, 18-21 September 2013; (LP†; 2014-1; 7-0) a first for *Alamosa* county was found at the Medano-Zapata Ranch, 13 September 2013; (MC†; 2014-30; 7-0) Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 3-4 October 2013; (DD; 2014-34; 7-0) Lamar, *Prowers*, 2 October 2013.

**Anna's Hummingbird** – *Calypte anna* (DS; 2013-201; 7-0) Colorado City and Rye, *Pueblo*, 9 September 2013; (RBr; 2013-281; 6-1) Grand Junction, *Mesa*, 4-19 December 2004.

**Costa's Hummingbird** – *Calypte costae* (BM†, BP†; 2013-273; 7-0) this first for *El Paso* County had a long

stay at an estate in Colorado Springs, 1 November 2013 thru 26 February 2014. The estate's caretakers, providing the bird flowering plants along with a protein supplement, were able to watch the male hummingbird molt its gorget feathers and by the end of the period the bird was frequently seen in a territorial display (*Colorado Birds*. Vol. 48. No. 3).

**Acorn Woodpecker** – *Melanerpes formicivorus* (MW†, PB†, JD†, NK†, TLe†, BM†, KMD†, NM†, SP; 2012-211; 7-0) Willow Circle, *El Paso*, 15 December 2012 thru 18 April 2013; (HK†, KD; 2013-244; 7-0) providing for a first for *Douglas*, this Acorn Woodpecker was found by Kathy and Howard Dressel on 24 May 2013.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** – *Melanerpes carolinus* (SGM†; 2011-198; 7-0) Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, 1 October 2011; (PWN†; 2014-3; 7-0) providing a first for *Huerfano* county, Polly Wren Neldner found a Red-bellied Woodpecker in her yard which stay from 17 November 2004 thru 10 February 2005.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – *Sphyrapicus varius* (LA†; 2013-83; 7-0) Redlands area, *Mesa*, 6 February 2013.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – *Contopus virens* (SGM†; 2013-155; 7-0) Julesburg, *Sedgwick*, 26 May 2013.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – *Empidonax flaviventris* (DLe†; 2013-251; 6-1) overlooked or difficult to identify, only the ninth Colorado record and first *Prowers* county record was recorded in Lamar on 15 September 2013. This small *Empidonax* flycatcher breeds in coniferous forests and bogs across Canada and into Alaska win-

tering from northeastern Mexico south to western Panama. Excellent photographic evidence supported the bird having a complete eye ring, big head and a slightly larger version of a Least Flycatcher but with a longer primary projection and blackish wings. The one member voting not to accept the record thought the eye ring should be wider for this species and he mentioned the primary project on the well-photographed bird was too short for a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

**Alder Flycatcher** – *Empidonax alnorum* (DF†; 2013-55; 7-0) Barr Lake SP, Adams, 1 September 2012; (SGM†; 2013-189; 7-0) Last Chance, Washington, 11 August 2013.

**Least Flycatcher** – *Empidonax minimus* (PD; 2013-250; 7-0) Connected Lakes, Mesa, 26 May 2007.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** – *Empidonax hammondii* (BM†, BKP†, DM; 2013-34; 7-0) On the 113th Christmas Bird Count, in particular the annual Penrose CBC on 16 December 2012, Dan Maynard detected an *Empidonax* flycatcher where a spring begins its descent into a wooded ravine on a Willow Street dairy farm in Cañon City, Fremont county. The bird was seen by many, photographed, and documented. It remained for six days, becoming the first *Empidonax* flycatcher documented in December in Colorado.

**Gray Flycatcher** – *Empidonax wrightii* (SGM†; 2011-195; 7-0) Crow Valley Campground, Weld, 20 August 2011; (SGM†; 2011-196; 7-0) Thompson Ranch, Lincoln, 5 September 2011.

**Black Phoebe** – *Sayornis nigricans*

(BU†; 2012-201; 7-0) Rio Grande State Wildlife Area, a first for Rio Grande, 19 July 2012; (DA†; 2013-75; 7-0) Florence River Walk, Fremont, 15 June 2013; (BI†; 2013-106; 7-0) La Veta, Huerfano, 9 September 2012.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** – *Myiarchus crinitus* (SGM†; 2011-197; 7-0) Thompson Ranch (private) Lincoln, 5 September 2011.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** – *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (LP†; 2014-2; 7-0) was found by visiting British birder, Laurence Pitcher on the Medano-Zapata Ranch in the San Luis Valley Alamosa on 29 June 2013. Only present for one day, it will become only the second state and first county record. Photographs and a written description nicely separated it from its congeners, in particular Ash-throated (*M. cinerascens*) and Great Crested (*M. crinitus*) flycatchers. Experts living in Brown-crested's U.S. range, southeastern California, extreme southern Utah and Nevada, southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and south Texas were consulted. This southern species is a resident in parts of Mexico, Central America, and in South America. In South America it breeds mostly east of the Andes south to southern Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina (Cardiff and Dittmann, 2000).

**Eastern Kingbird** – *Tyrannus tyrannus* (JD; 2013-170; 7-0) Antero Reservoir, Park, 17 June 2013.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – *Tyrannus forficatus* (DB; 2013-26; 7-0) just east of the Cottonwood Canyon picnic area and campground, Las Animas, 1 June 1996.

**Pacific Wren** – *Troglodytes pacificus*



(GW; 2014-26; 7-0) this provides a first county record that was found at the private Thompson Ranch, Lincoln County.

**Winter Wren** – *Troglodytes hiemalis* (KMD; 2012-79; 7-0) trail to Black Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park (Glacier Gorge Trailhead) *Larimer*, a rare summer record from 2 July 2012; (CL†; 2013-19; 7-0) Durango, *La Plata*, 24 December 2012.

**Sedge Wren** – *Cistothorus platensis* (SGM; 2012-191; 7-0) Kinny SWA, *Lincoln*, 21 October 2012; (NM†; 2013-14; 7-0) Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, 17 November 2011; (SGM; 2013-240; 7-0) TNC Fox Ranch (private) *Yuma*, 12 October 2013; (BBI†; 2013-241; 7-0) Spring Creek Trail, *Larimer*, 24 October 2013; (DD†; 2014-15; 7-0) Prewitt Reservoir, *Logan*, 16 November 2013.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – *Catharus minimus* (NG†; 2014-17; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 13 May 2013; (NG†; 2014-22; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 10 May 2013; (NG†; 2014-23; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 16 May 2013.

**Variied Thrush** – *Ixoreus naevius* (BKP; 2013-117; 7-0) Walsenburg, providing a first for *Huerfano*, 1 April 2000; (BKP†, PWN†; 2014-11; 7-0) *La Veta*, *Huerfano*, 12-30 January 2014.

**McCown's Longspur** – *Rhynchophanes mccownii* (TLi, CDo; 2013-118; 7-0) 4 miles west of Steamboat Springs, *Routt*, 18-19 April 2013.

**Worm-eating Warbler** – *Helminthos vermivorum* (CDe†; 2014-7; 7-0) Grand Junction, *Mesa*, 28-29 November 2013.

**Golden-winged Warbler** – *Vermivora chrysoptera* (TLe; 2013-278; 6-1) Barr Lake State Park, *Adams*,

**Prothonotary Warbler** – *Protonotaria citrea* (TM†; 2012-187; 7-0) found by Robin and Kendall Henry in Glenwood Springs on 9 September 2012, was a first for *Garfield* county; (SA; 2013-214; 7-0) Pastorius State Wildlife Area, *La Plata*, 9 September 2013.

**Tennessee Warbler** – *Oreothlypis peregrina* (BP†; 2013-271; 7-0) Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, this bird found in November stayed until at least 1 December 2013 to provide a first winter record for Colorado.

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Oporornis agilis* (NG†; 2013-29; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 10 September 2012; (SGM, GW; 2013-195; 7-0) Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area, *Washington*, 2 September 2013.

**Mourning Warbler** – *Geothlypis Philadelphia* (BKP†; 2013-145; 7-0) Brett Gray Ranch (private) *Lincoln*, 18 May 2013; (SGM; 2013-204; 7-0) Flagler Reservoir State Wildlife Area, *Kit Carson*, 11 September 2013; (NK†, KK, JSh; 2013-207; 7-0) Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 9-10 September 2013; (MM; 2013-208; 7-0) Walden Ponds/Sawhill Ponds Complex, *Boulder*, 11 September 2013; (SGM†; 2013-212; 7-0) Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, 2 September 2013.

**Kentucky Warbler** – *Geothlypis formosa* (TLe†; 2012-196; 7-0) Pritchett, *Baca*, 31 May 2011.

**Cape May Warbler** – *Setophaga tigrina* (AS†; 2012-186; 7-0) Kiowa Creek Sanctuary, *El Paso*, 2 October 2012; (BKP†, RO†, GW†; 2013-138;

7-0) Two Buttes State Wildlife Area, Baca, 10-11 May 2013; (BKP†; 2013-149; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo, 22 May 2013; (BKP†, JD†, SGM†; 2013-152; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo, 22-24 May 2013; (GW†; 2013-196; 7-0) South Republican SWA, Yuma, 21 May 2013; (DLe†; 2013-257; 7-0) Grandview Cemetery, Larimer, 7-8 October 2013.

**Northern Parula** – *Setophaga americana* (BKP†; 2013-74; 7-0) Pueblo City Park, Pueblo, 5 December 2012.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – *Setophaga castanea* (DLe†; 2013-258; 7-0) Boulder, Boulder, this bird was around for approximately three weeks but only documented for 9 November 2013.

**Blackburnian Warbler** – *Setophaga fusca* (HK; 2013-276; 7-0) Chatfield State Park, Jefferson, 7 October 1987.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** – *Setophaga pensylvanica* (JBe†; 2012-180; 7-0) Navajo Reservoir, Archuleta, 2 October 2012.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – *Setophaga dominica* (BKP†; 2013-73; 7-0) Pueblo City Park, Pueblo, this long staying bird showed up in September and was last seen on 8 December 2012.

**Prairie Warbler** – *Setophaga discolor* (BKP, MP; 2013-114; 7-0) Lake DeWeese, Custer, 21 September 2004; (BKP, DS; 2013-115; 7-0) Diversion Gate near Colorado City, Pueblo, 8 May 2003.

**Hermit Warbler** – *Setophaga occidentalis* (BKP; 2013-113; 7-0) Upper Queens Reservoir, Kiowa, 6 May 2001.

**Canada Warbler** – *Cardellina canadensis* (DR; 2013-95; 6-1) Lamar Community College, Prowers, 7 Octo-

ber 2011; (BKP; 2013-224; 7-0) Pueblo Reservoir area, Pueblo, 7 September 2013; (DLe†; 2013-253; 7-0) Lamar, Prowers, 16 September 2013.

**Eastern Towhee** – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (SGM; 2012-198; 6-1) Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan, 2 June 2011; (DD†; 2012-216; 6-1) Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan, 7 July 2012; (BKP†; 2013-2; 7-0) Greenwood, Custer, 1 January 2013, although not documented this bird was seen into April of 2013; (SGM; 2013-154; 7-0) Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan, 26 May 2013; (RR; 2013-283; 6-1) east of I76 on 160<sup>th</sup> just east of the railroad tracks, Adams, 4-31 January 2013.

**Field Sparrow** – *Spizella pusilla* (SGM; 2011-194; 7-0) Black Hollow Reservoir, Weld, 5 May 2001; (JD; 2013-30; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, 5 October 2012; (BKP; 2013-223; 7-0) Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo, 28 September 2013.

**White-throated Sparrow** – *Zonotrichia albicollis* (TLe†, SGM; 2013-50; 7-0) Moose Visitor Center, Jackson, 26 January 2013. A nice high elevation record for this species in Colorado. There was also one at this location the previous year but not documented.

**Hepatic Tanager** – *Piranga flava* (SO; 2013-254; 7-0) 5 miles south of Tobe, Las Animas, 14 May 2004.

**Scarlet Tanager** – *Piranga olivacea* (SW; 2012-193; 7-0) Loveland, Larimer, 9 September 2012; (DE; 2013-263; 6-1) McKay Lake, Adams, 5 May 2005; (RS; 2013-277; 7-0) Chautauqua Cabins, Boulder, 18 February 1994.

**Eastern Meadowlark** – *Sturnella magna* (BKm; 2013-164; 6-1) Beech Open Space, Boulder, 13 June 2013.

**Baltimore Oriole** – *Icterus galbula* (TM; 2014-33; 7-0) providing a first for Garfield County, this Baltimore Oriole was found by Robin and Kendall Henry in Glenwood Springs on 15-16 May 2013.

**Purple Finch** – *Haemorhous purpureus* (SGM; 2012-188; 6-1) Holyoke, Phillips, 30 September 2012; (GW†; 2013-96; 7-0) Castle Rock, Douglas, 25 December 2012 thru 15 March 2013; (MP†; 2013-232; 7-0) Flagler Reservoir State Wildlife Area, Kit Carson, 13 October 2013.

## RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Every Colorado birder, beginner and expert alike, will sooner or later have a bird report “not accepted” by the CBRC. While some written descriptions may describe a look-alike species or subspecies causing the non-acceptance, more often than not, unaccepted reports simply do not provide enough descriptive details or convincing photographs to provide “without a doubt” evidence to support a record. Or, the key call or song was not heard well or not described well or at all. Even a 5-2 majority vote in favor of a record being accepted does not meet the required 6-1 or 7-0. The bird may, in fact refer to the species reported, but the details provided may have been not convincing enough. Do not be insulted. Next time, detail every key identification point you observed (but not a word-for-word field guide description). Separate all of the look-alike species and when appropriate address potential hybrids. When photographing, attempt to get clear shots that show key features/behavior/

posture or include a sound recording or a sonogram when possible.

**Mute Swan** – *Cygnus olor*. In spite of almost yearly sightings of Mute Swan in Colorado, there have been no records of the species accepted and it currently does not appear on the Colorado Bird Checklist. There is no currently accepted method to determine if Colorado Mute Swans escaped from captivity or if they wandered to Colorado on their own. For example, what is the provenance of the Mute Swan west of Boulder Creek in Weld on 27 October 2013? The reported bird was an obvious Mute Swan, but one of unknown origin (2013-238; 3-4).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Cygnus buccinator*. Lack of a detailed description or photographs separating this from the smaller Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) persuaded a majority of CBRC members to not accept this 15 November 2012 report (2012-185; 3-4) from North Delaney Lake, Jackson.

**Glossy Ibis** – *Plegadis falcinellus*. A *Plegadis* ibis seen on 18 April 2004 at 20 Mile Road, Routt was not accepted by Committee members primarily because the bird was not in full alternate plumage and four of the members commented that the report did not rule out a hybrid (2013-248; 3-4). Hybrid White-faced Ibis x Glossy Ibis, depicted and described as “intermediate” by Sibley (2014) are increasingly reported from Colorado (see Leukering 2008). One reviewer mentioned that size is not a consistent character for separating the two species.

**Swallow-tailed Kite** – *Elanoides forficatus*. An observer driving north on I-25 in Larimer on 3 April 2013

was unable to present convincing details of the raptor he thought was this species. The driving speed, 75 mph, was felt as giving the observer too little time to sufficiently identify such a rarity; Colorado has only five accepted records (2013-99; 0-7) the last in 1993.

**Harris's Hawk** – *Parabuteo unicinctus*. A dark raptor was described from near Holly Municipal Airport, *Prowers* on 22 April 2012. Three rounds of voting did not provide the margin needed for acceptance. Negative vote comments suggested a reported band on the tail was not visible in the submitted photographs (2013-65; 4-3; 4-3; 5-2). One review agreed with the I.D. but was not okay with the bird's provenance, due to the extensive use of Harris's Hawks by falconers (possible escaped bird). One reviewer suggested the reported raptor might be a dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk whereas another reviewer, one who voted in favor of acceptance, mentioned Harris's Hawk was the only Colorado raptor showing the chestnut shoulder patches seen in the submitted photographs. Also mentioned as a plus in favor of acceptance were visible tarsi feathered halfway, a good character for Harris's Hawk. Another reviewer liked the amount of yellow on the bird's cere for Harris's Hawk. A raptor seen on 10 October 2013 at Crown Hill Park/Lake/Cemetery, *Jefferson* was observed without binoculars (2013-230; 0-7). All Committee members mentioned a lack of details in the report and questioned whether the bird's identification. Due to the popularity of the species with falcon-

ers, reports to records committees of Harris's Hawks require extra scrutiny and observers should look for bands and/or jesses and should state such in their submitted details. This aspect was noted by many reviewers for both of these reports.

**Western Gull** – *Larus occidentalis*. A dark-mantled gull fitting the description of Western Gull was reported from Totten Reservoir, *Montezuma* on 22 April 2012. During the second round of voting (2012-64; 5-2; 2-5) Committee members decided a hybrid could not be completely ruled out based on a series of photographs showing mantle coloration a bit lighter than expected and with leg and feet color not perfectly matching either of the two Pacific Coast subspecies of Western Gull.

**Herring (Vega) Gull** – *Larus argentatus vegae*. Though still considered a subspecies of Herring Gull by the AOU Check-list Committee (Chesser et al. 2015) the eastern Siberian form known as Vega Gull is regular in western Alaska, but with only a few accepted records from farther south on the U. S. coast. Adults are slightly darker-mantled in adult plumages than is the typical ABA-area form (*smithsonianus*) and have brighter pink legs and dark eyes. A gull at Lake Loveland, *Larimer* on 28 December 2011 was thought by CBRC members to be inseparable from the highly variable plumage of Herring Gulls wintering in Colorado (2012-209; 1-6). Another individual was reported from Lake Loveland, *Larimer* on 17 December 2012. The bird exhibited large scapular and tertial crescents and ex-

tensive neck streaking, but the report was not accepted by the Committee because photographs were thought to be inconclusive (2012-210; 0-7).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – *Archilocus colubris*. Only two species of *Archilochus* hummingbird exist in the world. With a good view and/or upon examination of photographs showing a profile view of the folded wings, identification to genus is straightforward, with the noticeable difference in width between the narrow inner primaries and the broad outer primaries being definitive. Separating Ruby-throated from Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*) however, is more difficult, and the shape of the tip of the outermost primary is an important separator, particularly in females and many immature males. The committee here provides details on four reports that were found at least somewhat lacking. The Committee commented that the presented evidence for a hummingbird in southern *Prowers* on 5 September 2013 was insufficient to eliminate Black-chinned Hummingbird (2013-187; 5-2, 1-6). The primary tips were not described sufficiently, although most Committee members believed the report pointed toward Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Committee members expressed concern about insufficient details in the report one noted 25 July 2013 at Lakewood, *Jefferson*. (2013-194; 3-4) and four voters thought the lack of a “wing whirr” did not sufficiently rule out Black-chinned Hummingbird. Details of another, reported from Estes Park, *Larimer* on 29 August 2013, were sufficient to differentiate it from

other hummingbird species except Black-chinned (2013-233; 4-3; 0-7). Neither the photographs nor a detailed description could eliminate Black-chinned Hummingbird for a majority of Committee members concerning a report from Spring Creek Trail, *Larimer* on 21 September 2013 (2013-274; 3-4).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – *Sphyrapicus varius*. A 19 February 2005 sapsucker report from Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo* required two rounds of voting (2005-13; 5-2; 3-4) for a decision to be reached. Two voters mentioned that the lack of a red nape does not necessarily eliminate Red-naped Sapsucker. Observers should focus on more than just the presence or absence of a red nape patch, particularly the back pattern and the precise details of red, black, and white on the throat. Additionally, some members noted that Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker, a regular hybrid combination, was not addressed.

**Coastal Pacific Group Downy Woodpecker** – *Picoides pubescens gairdnerii*. Spots on the upper breast, not streaks was indicative of a Downy Woodpecker seen at Ish Reservoir, *Boulder* on 20 October 2012, but some members felt intergrades with Rocky Mountain subspecies of Downy Woodpecker could not be ruled out. Other voters wanted more information on patterns of vagrancy in Pacific Downies before adding this northwestern subspecies group to the official Colorado list (2012-190; 3-4).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – *Contopus virens*. An old record from 27 May 2009 was evaluated. Photographs of a

silent wood-pewee in *Pueblo* were not enough to convince two Committee members to accept this report after three rounds of voting (2009-120; 5-2; 5-2; 5-2). Eastern Wood-Pewee usually has less dark tip on its orange bill than Western, more of a greenish cast to upperparts or breast, and the greater coverts are usually broader, but these are all subtle secondary characters with some overlap found in museum specimens. Reviewers were reluctant to accept a report of another silent wood-pewee, from Lake Beckwith Dam, *Pueblo* on 27 May 2013 (2013-153; 2-5). Some comments mentioned that the observer did not see enough of the bird's plumage and that the observation was of short duration. See Lee et al. (2008) for a very good article dealing with the separation of wood-pewee species.

**Alder Flycatcher** – *Empidonax alnorum*. A 22 July 2012 *Empidonax* flycatcher from Kinney SWA *Lincoln* did not receive the necessary votes by the Committee for acceptance. The “no” vote comments (2012-87; 4-3; 3-4) mention the early date for this normally late migrant and the difficulty in positively separating Alders from the eastern subspecies of Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii trailii*) in some circumstances. Another Committee member thought hearing only one note was insufficient for conclusive evidence supporting the reported identification.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – *Tyrannus forficatus*. The Road 18 overlook at John Martin Reservoir, *Bent* was the spot where a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported on 29 July 2012. The

report had some conflicting details about the belly color and the length of the tail streamers, enough to leave some doubt in the mind of four Committee members (2013-98; 3-4).

**Chihuahuan Raven** – *Corvus cryptoleucus*. Perhaps the most difficult field-identification problem in Colorado is separating Chihuahuan Raven from Common Raven (*C. corax*). An out-of-range bird at Longmont, *Boulder*, on 13 December 2012 was unanimously thought to be insufficiently separated from the more expected Common Raven (2012-205; 0-7). The description was of just the call notes. Another report originated from the Big Thompson River Walk, *Larimer*, on 20 April 2013. Some reviewers commented on the lack of details in the description of the raven's tail, the lack of a detailed analysis of the call notes, and the northern Colorado location of this southern species. Others commented on the general difficulty of differentiating the two Colorado raven species. Pieplow (2014) discusses raven vocalizations, while Leukering (2015a) discusses visual identification elsewhere in this issue.

**Pacific Wren** – *Troglodytes pacificus*. The subspecies of Pacific Wren most likely to occur in Colorado, *T. p. salebrosus*, is not generally depicted well in field guides and, in many respects, is quite similar in appearance to Winter Wren (Leukering 2010) thus it causes confusion here. The report of a dark, stub-tailed wren from Fox Ranch, *Yuma*, on 6 October 2012 was not accepted, mostly because the report lacked a good photograph and, apparently, no sound recording

was made, though double-noted calls were described as being similar to a Wilson's Warbler's call (2012-136; 4-3; 3-4). See Leukering (2010) and Faulkner (2012) for more discussion on differences and references.

**Winter Wren** – *Troglodytes hiemelis*. On 19 May 2013, a likely stub-tailed wren was heard “chipping” from the south end of Old Lime Road, *San Juan*. Reviewers mentioned that the observer did not have a binocular at the time of the sighting and did not provide details of how its congener, Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*) was ruled out (2013-150; 3-4). A stub-tailed wren was seen, but not heard, on 15 November 2002 in Hotchkiss, *Delta*. This sighting occurred before the split of Winter Wren into three species (Chesser et al. 2010) and few were aware of the differences between the two ABA-area taxa in call notes, dorsal spotting, and coloration when the report was submitted. Much new information has been presented since 2002 on the topic of differentiating Pacific and Winter Wrens, so it is not surprising that the Committee did not accept this report (2013-246; 1-6).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – *Catharus minimus*. The report of a *Catharus* thrush at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 24 May 2012 fell one vote short of being accepted (2012-75; 5-2; 5-2; 5-2). After each of the three rounds of voting, the two “no” votes mentioned the thrush's cheek color had not been described as cold gray a key field mark of *C. minimus*. Unlike in the East, the primary confusion species for Gray-cheeked Thrush in Colorado is Hermit Thrush rather

than Swainson's Thrush (Leukering 2007, 2015b).

**Swainson's (Russet-backed group) Thrush** – *Catharus usutlulatus*. Swainson's Thrush subspecies breeding on the Pacific slope, known as Russet-backed Thrush, have been recorded as spring migrants in Colorado (Mlodinow et al. 2013 and references therein). They differ from the form that breeds in Colorado (*C. u. swainsoni*) Olive-backed Thrush, by their russet back coloration and dark flanks (among other features) often looking similar to Veery (*C. fuscescens*). Some Committee members thought that the photograph of a thrush from Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 15 September 2013 (2013-226; 3-4) did not show enough russet tones on its back to be properly considered referable to the Russet-backed Thrush group.

**Bendire's Thrasher** – *Toxostoma bendirei*. The difficulty of differentiating the very-rare-in-Colorado Bendire's Thrasher from juvenile Curve-billed Thrasher (*T. curvirostre*) and worn adult Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) remains a stumbling block for the Committee. This report was of a single Bendire's from north of Del Norte, *Saguache*, on 20 June 2000 (2012-212; 1-6). Although Curve-billed Thrasher is very rare, at best, in the San Luis Valley, Sage Thrasher is a common local breeder.

**Smith's Longspur** – *Calcarius pictus*. One was reported from Cherry Creek State Park, *Arapahoe*, on 30 April 2013 (2013-133; 1-6). Reviewers' comments indicate that this report was not accepted mostly for a lack of photographic evidence and the scanty description.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** – *Parkesia motacilla*. A 7 September 2011 waterthrush was described from below the dam at Two Buttes Reservoir SWA, Baca (2013-3; 2-5). Reviewers commented on the late date for this species and that the throat streaking was not described, which would help differentiate it from the more common congener, Northern Waterthrush (*P. noveboracensis*).

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – *Setophaga castanea*. A report came from 22 September 1992 of a Bay-breasted Warbler at what was then, and still is, a migrant trap, Last Chance, Washington, (2013-275; 5-2; 4-3). Reviewers commented on the elapsed time (23 years) between the sighting and the report submission and that the experienced observer did not separate this species from two look-alike species, Pine Warbler (*S. pinus*) and Blackpoll Warbler (*S. striata*).

**Eastern Towhee** – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. One was reported from Cottonwood Canyon, Baca, on 12 May 2012 (2012-60; 5-2; 3-4). This audio-only report was felt by the Committee to require plumage details, as the species, like most passerines, learns its song, so the bird may have been a hybrid (which are depressingly regular in Colorado) or a confused Spotted Towhee. The well-known migrant trap,

Lamar Community College Woods, Prowers, was the location described as harboring a wintering towhee, 7 January 2013 (2013-36; 4-3; 2-5). As more photographic documentation was submitted before the second round of voting, some reviewers commented on visible white spotting on the tertials and on wing coverts suggesting a hybrid Eastern x Spotted Towhee.

**LeConte's Sparrow** – *Ammodramus leconteii*. Four Committee members thought the description of this sparrow from below the John Martin Reservoir bunkhouse, Bent, on 4 April 2013 (2013-97; 3-4) did not rule out the other similar *Ammodramus* sparrows, especially Nelson's Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*).

**Common Redpoll** – *Acanthis flammica*. Now that Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) has been documented as occurring in Colorado, Committee members voiced concern about Hoary Redpoll not being eliminated in the report, especially evident after the second round of voting (2013-42; 5-2; 2-5). The bird was described from South Fork, Rio Grande, on 2 January 2013. Another, reported on 2 April 2013 from near Clark, Routt (2013-94; 1-6) was believed by the Committee to be a redpoll, but their concern was with the scanty and vague details in the description not eliminating other look-alike species.

## REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

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