

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Lynn E. Wickersham, San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81301, wickersham\_l@fortlewis.edu

## CBRC REPORT

# The 48<sup>th</sup> Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

Lawrence S. Semo

Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

## Introduction

This 48<sup>th</sup> report presents the results of deliberations of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) on partial results of circulations held during the summer of 2008. This article provides results of the circulation of 49 reports submitted by 20 observers documenting 36 occurrences of 17 species. Per CBRC Bylaws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Each report that was not accepted received fewer than four votes to accept in the final vote. Those records with 4 or 5 accept votes have transcended to a second round of deliberations, and results of those records will be published at a later date.

Three potentially new species to the state list are still pending within the CBRC: Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*).

Committee members voting on these reports were: Coen Dexter, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, and Larry Semo.

### **Committee Functions**

All reports received by the CBRC (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, including both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002), and for species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. Those lists can be found at <http://www.cfo-link.org/birding/lists.php>. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (<http://www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php5>).

### **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 in the ten-year period preceding the submission. The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' continuance on or removal from the statewide Main Review List (Semo et al. 2002).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 48<sup>th</sup> Supplement (Banks et al. 2007). 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, second round (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 (those people) contributed documentation; additional contributors' initials follow in alphabetical order by name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials; initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "v" (*v*); and those who submitted

sonograms 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 that submitted details with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so comes second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2001-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four “accept” votes and three “do not accept” votes, and 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 final date on which a rare species was seen, as that provides historical evidence of the true extent of its stay.

### **Committee News**

The CBRC has chosen Doug Faulkner to fill the role of Secretary of the CBRC. Per CBRC bylaws, the Chair, with the approval of the regular CBRC members, may designate a Secretary to assist the Chair with various Committee tasks, particularly as they relate to organization and the circulation process. This position may be filled by a current voting member of the CBRC or by any CFO member in good standing.

### **Corrigenda**

Three corrections are made to Semo (2008). The Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) accepted from Pueblo Res., Pueblo (2006-91), was erroneously reported as occurring in 2006; the actual year was 2005. The other finder of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) in Lamar, Prowers (2007-31), was Sherry Chapman, not Sherrie York. That bird was also published as occurring solely on 3 May 2007, but the documentation by Spencer was for 4 May, so the date span for the record should read as “3-4 May 2007.” The CBRC thanks Brandon Percival for pointing out those errors.

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Nyctanassa violacea* (19/8). An adult at Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area (SWA) between 25 Apr and 22 May 2006 is the first for Otero (JBy, BKP †, CWi †, SO; 2006-41; 7-0). A juvenile below the dam of Bonny Res. on 4 Sep of the same year is the second for Yuma (PJ, CV; 2006-120; 7-0).

**Whooping Crane** – *Grus americana* (5/2). An outstanding find was an adult soaring with Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) above Neegronda Res., Kiowa, on 1 Nov 2006 (BKP, JD, DN, JR; 2006-181; 7-0). This is only the fifth record of the species in the state from the naturally occurring Wood Buffalo National Park breeding population in Canada.

**Mew Gull** – *Larus canus* (39/26). The CBRC deliberated on a number of Mew Gull records stemming back to 2001, although most were from 2006. Establishing a first record for Yuma, a bird in definitive-basic plumage was at Bonny Res. on 2 Dec 2001 (AS †, JK; 2006-176; 6-1). Another adult was at Crown Hill Lake in Wheat Ridge, where it was documented between the period 5 Feb and 4 Mar 2005, although the bird was apparently discovered prior to 5 Feb (TL †, BKP †, LS †, PP; 2005-6; 7-0); this represents the second record of the species for Jefferson. Pueblo Res. has consistently been a hotbed of Mew Gull activity and the CBRC has

accepted four additional records from 2006 from that location. They include a first-cycle bird present between 25 Jan and 2 Mar (BKP †; 2006-13; 7-0), although the bird was apparently first found during the Pueblo Res. CBC on 17 Dec 2005; an adult on 2 Mar (BKP †; 2006-20; 7-0); another adult between 13 and 23 Dec (BKP †, BM †, TL †; 2006-167; 7-0); and a first-cycle bird on 15 Dec (BKP †; 2006-170; 7-0). One third of the accepted records of Mew Gull have been from Pueblo, with a little over 25% of the records from Pueblo Reservoir itself.



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Rocky Ford SWA, Otero County, 1 May 2006. Photo by Cole Wild*

**Pomarine Jaeger –**

*Stercorarius pomarinus* (21/11). Establishing perhaps the first documented inland Lower 48 record of a juvenile in September, a light-morph juvenile was photographed at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on the extremely early date of 5 Sep 2006 (GW †; 2006-121; 7-0). Juvenile Pomarine Jaegers typically don't show up in inland areas of the Lower 48 until October. If not for the 5 Sep observation, the

dark-morph juvenile at Cherry Creek and also Chatfield reservoirs, *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, between 24 Sep and 5 Oct 2006 might have represented the earliest record (GW †, BM †, BKP †, JR; 2006-132; 7-0). Although present mainly at Cherry Creek Res., the bird was refound at Chatfield Res. on 4 Oct by JR, but not documented until the following day by GW.

**Williamson's Sapsucker –** *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*. Relatively common as montane breeders in Colorado, Williamson's Sapsuckers generally winter south of the state. Unusual, but perhaps regular at the location, were a female found on 20 Jan 2006 at Lakeside Cemetery, Cañon City, *Fremont* (BKP, BM †), and a male seen at that same location on 12 Feb 2006 (BKP †, RM), although apparently the male had been there from at least 18 Dec 2005. Both birds were



*Williamson's Sapsucker*, *Lakeside Cemetery*, Cañon City, *Fremont County*, 20 January 2006. Photo by Bill Maynard

assigned the same accession number (2006-9) and deliberation results were 7-0.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker –** *Picoides scalaris*. Ladder-backed Woodpeckers are permanent residents across portions of southeast Colorado, ranging west rarely to central *Fremont*. Out of range was a female found at Yellowjacket Creek, *Montezuma*, on 4 Jul 2006 (AS, 2006-104, 6-1), which establishes the first record for southwestern Colorado. Vagrant records of Ladder-backed Woodpecker appear to be scant. The closest known vagrant record of the species is roughly 170 miles to the southwest of Yellowjacket Creek, near Desert View, Arizona, within Grand Canyon National Park (Chuck LaRue, pers. comm.). According to Mr. LaRue, the species only occurs regularly in central Arizona north to the Mogollon Rim,

approximately 265 miles southwest of Yellowjacket Creek. In New Mexico, the northwesternmost vagrant report of the species is from Farmington, *San Juan*, approximately 62 miles southeast of the Yellowjacket Creek sighting (Jerry Oldenettel, pers. comm.). The species is known to occur regularly in extreme southwestern Utah. An attempt was made to elicit response from knowledgeable birders in Utah regarding vagrant observations of the species in the southeastern portion of that state, but no response was provided.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (31/17). The spring of 2006 saw a flurry of Vermilion Flycatcher activity in eastern Colorado, out of which the CBRC has accepted an additional five records. An adult male was at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, between 18 and 19 Mar (BKP

†, BM †, AS †, CWi †; 2006-25; 7-0). An adult female was described from the Campo Cemetery, *Baca*, on 17 Apr (BG, MI; 2006-34; 7-0). On 21 Apr, a female was seen at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso* (BKP †, RO; 2006-38; 7-0). Campo had yet another female, this time a second-year bird seen at the City Park, on 26 Apr (BKP †, MPE; 2006-42; 7-0). Finally, another adult female was well north at Chatfield State Park, *Douglas*, on 28 Apr (JK †; 2006-43; 7-0).

**Wood Thrush** – *Hylocichla mustelina* (28/16). An exceptional showing of Wood Thrushes was also had in 2006, with three additional records obtained. One was at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 31 May (BM †; 2006-94; 7-0), the first for that well-birded county in 25 years. On 3 Jun, one was photographed at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, surprisingly a first county record (RH †, CWi †, DAL; 2006-97; 7-0). The bird was apparently first discovered on 2 Jun, but the Committee received no details of the observation on that date. Another was banded at Barr Lake, *Adams*, on 7 Oct (SN †; 2006-142; 7-0); this represents the third Wood Thrush banded at that location.

**Varied Thrush** – *Ixoreus naevius* (29/18). The CBRC accepted an addition-



Wood Thrush, Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo County, 31 May 2006. Second record for the county. Photo by Bill Maynard

al five Varied Thrush records from 2005-2006, three of which represent first county records. An adult male, a first for Kit Carson, was at Flagler SWA on 22 Dec 2005 (SS †; 2005-144; 7-0). Another first county record was acquired when an adult male was found at Lamar Community College in Lamar on 22 Jan 2006 (BKP; 2006-14; 7-0). A male was reported from that location in late October of that year (DR), although the Committee received no details on that report; it is unknown whether the December bird was the same individual. A female at Last Chance, Washington, on the late date of 12 May 2006 was the first for that county (GW †, GG, LM; 2006-50; 7-0). This date is the latest spring date for Colorado, the previous late date being 14 Mar. The Washington bird was reportedly first discovered a day or two prior to 12 May, though no documentation thereof was provided. A first-basic male was at Crow Valley CG on 18 Dec 2006, which, interestingly, was the second for Weld and the second for that very location (NK †, CWi †, DAL; 2006-173; 7-0). That bird was ostensibly first discovered on 17 Dec, though no details were submitted. Lastly, an adult male was in Fort Collins, Larimer, on 21 Dec 2006 (RB †; 2006-174; 7-0).



*Varied Thrush, first-basic male, Crow Valley Camp-ground, Weld County, 18 Dec 2006. Second record for the county. Photo by Cole Wild*

**Sprague's Pipit** – *Anthus spragueii* (9/5). One, the first for Lincoln, was near Hugo on 14 Sep 2006 (BG; 2006-126; 6-1).

**Baltimore × Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus galbula × bullockii*) – Quite unusual was a Baltimore × Bullock's Oriole at a residential feeder near Lamar on the strange date of 20 Feb 2006 (DR †, BN; 2006-17; 6-1). The bird was reportedly first discovered by a neighbor on 19 Feb.

### **RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**

The Committee recognizes that its decisions may upset some observers. We heartily acknowledge that those who make the effort to submit documentation certainly care whether or not their reports are accepted. However, non-accepted records do not necessarily suggest that the birder misidentified or did not see the spe-

cies. A non-accepted record only indicates that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to catalogue on the list of confirmed bird records for the state. Non-accepted reports may provide evidence that do not mention certain requisite field marks or indicate that the conditions of the observation did not permit the proper study of all necessary traits. All non-accepted records are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and may be reconsidered by the Committee if new information is provided (e.g., photos, documentation from other observers). We summarize below why the following reports were not accepted.

**Mississippi Kite** – *Ictinia mississippiensis*. The report of a subadult at South Table Mountain in Golden, Jefferson, on the rather late date of 2 Oct 2006 met with mixed feelings from the Committee (2006-140; 3-4). The observer reported that the bird had a “distinctive gray back and white front...and mostly clean white ventral side,” which is inconsistent with Mississippi Kite, as no age/sex combination has white underparts. The note that the cere was yellow is also inconsistent with Mississippi Kite.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – *Contopus virens*. A silent *Contopus* photographed at Soapstone Ranch, Larimer, on 1 Jun 2006 received little Committee support (2006-95; 2-5). Eastern Wood-Pewee often displays a greener hue to its plumage, averages lighter in color overall, and is slightly longer-tailed and shorter-winged than Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*), but there is considerable over-

lap in these characters, and the two species cannot be safely separated in the field except by vocalizations. Although the bird was described as being green, many Committee members commented that the photographs suggested the bird was actually grayer than described. The bird was reported as having an orange maxilla with very little black at the tip, an all-dark mandible, broad white wingbars, and gray undertail coverts. Eastern Wood-Pewee is not totally identifiable based on those traits.

**Philadelphia Vireo** – *Vireo philadelphicus*. A vireo at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, on 22 May 2006 met with Committee skepticism (2006-81; 3-4). Although the description suggested a Philadelphia Vireo, most members thought that Warbling Vireo was not completely ruled out. The report that the bird was bright yellow on the chest, belly, and undertail coverts conflicts with the plumage of a Philadelphia Vireo in May, as the bright yellow underparts are not obtained until the prebasic molt, which typically begins in July. That prebasic molt is complete, and by the following spring, underparts feathers on Philadelphia Vireos have worn to a dull grayish-yellow rather than bright yellow coloration.

**Sprague’s Pipit** – The report of a heard-only bird near Briggsdale, Weld, on 16 Oct 2006 (2006-147; 2-5) was probably that of a Sprague’s Pipit based on call notes, but few Committee members were comfortable accepting a record in which the sole description of the bird was that it called a doubled “squeet, squeet.”

**Varied Bunting** – *Passerina versicolor*. The review of a potential first state record Varied Bunting seen in Arvada, Jefferson, on 14 May 2006 garnered no Committee support (2006-56; 0-7). The bird was briefly described as being a sparrow-sized, bluish bird with a reddish-brown oval on the back of the neck, with black encompassing the beak, and with

wings not as blue as the rump. That description alone does not necessarily indicate a male Varied Bunting. Some CBRC members were concerned by the fact that the identification of the bird was not made until the following day. Some reviewers also commented that a hybrid Lazuli × Indigo Bunting (*P. amoena* × *cyanea*) or even Painted Bunting (*P. ciris*) was not ruled out.

## REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

The CBRC graciously thanks the following individuals for submitting records of or discovering rare species in Colorado that prompted this circulation: JBy: Jim Beatty; RB: Robert Blinderman; CC: Curt Campbell; JD: John Drummond; MF: Mike Foster; BGi: Brian Gibbons; GG: Gregg Goodrich; RH: Rachel Hopper; MI: Marshall Iliff; PJ: Pete Janzen; JK: Joey Kellner; NK: Nick Komar; DAL: David A. Leatherman; TL: Tony Leukering; RL: Roger Linfield; BM: Bill Maynard; RM: Rich Miller; LM: Larry Modesitt; DN: Duane Nelson; SN: Starr Nicely; BN: Bill Nichols; RO: Ric Olson; SO: Stan Oswald; BKP: Brandon K. Percival; MPe: Mark Peterson; PP: Peter Plage; JR: Joe Roller; DR: Dorothy Russell; LS: Larry Semo; SS: Scott Shaum; AS: Andrew Spencer; CV: Curt VanBoening; GW: Glenn Walbek; CWi: Cole Wild.

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Lawrence S. Semo, 9054 Dover St., Westminster, CO 80021, [lsemo@swca.com](mailto:lsemo@swca.com)