

circumstance—an environment that provided a surplus of available and unoccupied artificial cavities. The likelihood of its occurrence in other environments remains unknown. But it seems likely that a pair of Juniper Titmice successfully fledged three young from a second brood following the fledging of a first brood of three.

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CBRC REPORT

The 50th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

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Introduction

This 50th report presents the results of deliberations of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) on partial results of circulations held during late 2008 and early 2009. This article provides results of the circulation of 63 reports submitted by 11 observers documenting 43 occurrences of 39 species from the period 2001 through 2008, although most records treated here pertain to 2008 records. Nine records involving nine individuals were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. 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 four or five “accept” votes have transcended to a second round of deliberations, and results of those records will be published at a later date.

This report accepts the first state record of Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*), bringing the Colorado state list to **488**. Other highlights of this report include the third record of King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), the seventh record of Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), the second record of Smith’s Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), and the first record of a Type 3 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

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

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 reports of 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.php>).

Error of Omission

In Semo and Faulkner (2008), we reported on the CBRC’s acceptance of a record of Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) from Fox Ranch, Yuma, seen on 6 Oct 2007. We noted that Bill Schmoker was the sole observer to document the bird. However, Ted Floyd also documented the bird and his documentation has now been added to the official record of that sighting. I apologize to Ted for misplacing his submitted documentation.

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 49th Supplement (Banks et al. 2008). 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 two rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four "accept" votes and three "do not accept" votes, while the second-round vote was 6-1 in favor of accepting the report. The decision on most reports is completed in the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized in keeping with the style established for the News from the Field column in this journal. We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans when documentations do not provide such. The CBRC encourages observers to document the final date on which a rare species was seen, as that provides historical evidence of the true extent of its stay.

For this report, the CBRC abbreviations are used for campground

(CG), Chico Basin Ranch (CBR), County Road (CR), Reservoir (Res.), and State Park (SP).

RECORDS
ACCEPTED

Red-throated Loon – *Gavia stellata* (36/13). A juvenile was at Pueblo Res. on 10 Nov 2005 (BKP †; 2005-116; 5-2, 6-1) and an adult was at the same location between 3 Jan and 26 Feb 2008 (BKP †, TLe; 2008-4; 7-0). There are now eight records of Red-throated Loon for Pueblo.

Yellow-billed Loon – *Gavia adamsii* (7/20). A juvenile, the seventh for Pueblo, was at Pueblo Res. between 1 and 8 Jan 2008 (TL, BM †, BKP †, BSc †, JK; 2008-2; 7-0).

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus* (46/30). Although Glossy Ibis records have exceeded the standard threshold for removal from the main review list

(three records/year over the past ten-year period), the CBRC still solicits details on observations of the species as it continues to track the incredible expansion of the species in the West



Red-throated Loon, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, Jan 2008. Photo by Brandon Percival



Yellow-billed Loon, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, 2 Jan 2008. Photo by Bill Schmoker

and the increasing frequency of its hybridization with White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*). The Committee recently accepted three additional records of Glossy Ibis. One was at Pastorius



Taiga race Merlin, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, 25 March 2007. Photo by Bill Maynard

Res., *La Plata*, on 27 Apr 2007 (JBy, SA; 2007-78; 7-0) and another was at the same location on 19 Apr 2008 (JBy; 2008-32; 6-1), establishing the second and third accepted records of the species for *La Plata*. Headquarters Pond at CBR, *Pueblo*, hosted one between 30 Apr and 11 May 2008 (BM†, BG †; 2008-36; 7-0).

Merlin – *Falco columbarius columbarius*. Rare in Colorado, a member of the nominate “taiga” race of Merlin was photographed near the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 25 Mar 2007 (BM †; 2007-14; 7-0).

King Rail – *Rallus elegans* (3/1). Only the third for Colorado, and the first for *Bent*, one called from the Fort Lyon marshes on the evening of 22 May 2001 (TLe, TS; 2001-171; 5-2, 6-1). Separation between calls of King and Virginia Rails (*R. limicola*) can be difficult, and the Committee

was indecisive in its first round of deliberations. Additional research by some members on the variability of call types between the two species ultimately resulted in acceptance. The observer’s description of the call being of a long series of low-pitched, hollow “kek-kek-kek” notes with similar internote intervals throughout (i.e., monotonous in pitch and tempo) is consistent with King

and not Virginia Rail, as the call of Virginia’s consists of doubled “kid-dick” notes in shorter series.

Hudsonian Godwit – *Limosa haemastica* (28/6). An alternate-plumaged bird graced the edges of Union Res., *Weld*, between 16 and 18 Apr 2008 (DF, BK, BKP †, NP, AS †, BPr; 2008-30, 7-0). *Weld*, with eight of the 28 records (28%), has been the premier area for Hudsonian Godwit sightings in the state.

Least Sandpiper – *Calidris minutilla*. Very rare in winter, a basic-plumaged Least Sandpiper was near the Environmental Learning Center in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 6 Jan 2008 (NK †; 2008-5; 7-0).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Tryngites subruficollis* (30/10). A juvenile at Adobe Creek Res. on 13 Sep 2007 (BM; 2007-65; 7-0) is the third for *Bent*. Based on narrative provided by the submitter, the bird may have



Ancient Murrelet, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, 16 Nov 2008. Photo by Rick Clawges

been present a few days following the original sighting, though the Committee received no additional details from other observers of a possible later date.

Thayer's Gull – *Larus thayerii*. Very rare for the West Slope, and potentially a first county record, a first-cycle bird was at Confluence Park in Delta, Delta, on 3 Mar 2008 (TLe†; 2008-22; 7-0). The bird had been detected earlier than that date, though no details of such observations were submitted to the CBRC.

Sooty Tern – *Onychoprion fuscatus* (1/1). An adult, the first for Colorado, was discovered on 12 Sep 2008 at Lake Holbrook, Otero, and then later that same day at Lake Meredith, Crowley (BKP †, JK, BM †, NP, BSc, AS †, GW †; 2008-107; 7-0). The bird was still present on the morning of 13 Sep, but attempts to locate it later in the day and on subsequent days

were unsuccessful. Specific details of the record are presented in Brandon Percival's article within this issue of the journal (see p. 111).

Ancient Murrelet – *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (7/3). A first-cycle Ancient Murrelet was photographed by a boater at Pueblo Res. on 16 Nov 2008 (RC †; 2008-134, 7-0), providing the first record for Pueblo. This species has a well-documented pattern

of long-distance vagrancy within the interior of North America and the date range of occurrences in Colorado is fairly narrow; all seven have been recorded between 14 Oct and 5 Dec, with 57% of those occurrences falling between 4 and 16 Nov.

Inca Dove – *Columbina inca*. One heard calling in Pueblo West on 17 Oct 2007 (BKP; 2007-73; 6-1) is the fourth for Pueblo.

Snowy Owl – *Bubo scandiaca* (16/7). Providing the second record for Adobe Creek Res., a Snowy Owl, seemingly a juvenile male, was on both the Bent and Kiowa sides of the lake on 7 Apr 2007 (BM †, BKP †, SO; 2007-20; 7-0). The bird was apparently first discovered the day prior, though no details were submitted to the CBRC for that date. This is the latest spring date for the species in Colorado; the previous late date was 17 Mar.

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Aegolius acadicus*. Late for the Eastern Plains, one was spotted roosting at CBR, *El Paso*, on 12 May 2007 (BKP †, LJ; 2007-35; 7-0).

Anna's Hummingbird – *Calypte anna* (9/2). An immature male fed at David Steingraeber's feeder near Horsetooth Res., *Larimer*, where it was wonderfully photographed on 5 Nov 2008 (AS †; 2008-132; 7-0). This is the first record of the species for *Larimer*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker – *Melanerpes carolinus*. Rare along the Front Range, a female Red-bellied was at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch near Masonville, *Larimer*, where it was discovered on the Longmont CBC on 1 Jan 2008 (NK †, SR; 2008-1; 7-0).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus*

virens (21/6). A singing bird at Lamar Community College on 1 May 2008 (AS; 2008-38, 6-1) gained Committee support. This represents the first record for *Prowers* and ties the earliest spring record in Colorado.

Black Phoebe – *Sayornis nigricans*. Becoming virtually annual now in winter at this location, an adult was documented along the Arkansas River below Pueblo Res. on 4 Feb 2008 (BKP †; 2008-13; 7-0). The bird had apparently first been detected at that location on 15 Dec 2007.

Vermilion Flycatcher – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (34/20). The spring of 2008 was excellent for adult male Vermilion Flycatcher discoveries in Colorado, with three being accepted, all representing first county records. One sang at Highline SP, *Mesa*, on 1 Apr 2008 (JBn s; 2008-26; 7-0) and represents only the second record for the West Slope, the first being of a bird at Pastorius Res. in 1975. One was along the Cañon City Riverwalk in *Fremont* on 13 Apr (BKP, RM; 2008-28; 7-0), while a third was at Grenada, *Prowers*, on 28 Apr (BKP †; JO; 2008-34; 7-0).

Great Crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus crinitus*. Rare west of the far eastern counties of Colorado, a Great Crested Flycatcher was encountered near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 18 Sep 2007 (DS; 2007-59; 7-0).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (29/19). An adult female highlighted the



Anna's Hummingbird, *Larimer County*, 16 Oct 2008. Photo by Andrew Spencer

AT&T towers ten miles south of Lamar along US Highway 287 in *Prowers* on 29 Apr 2007 (AS †, CWi; 2007-80; 7-0). The species has bred at this location in recent years.

Varied Thrush – *Ixoreus naevius* (35/23). *Roult* obtained its first record with the adult female documented at Steamboat Springs on 3 Feb 2008 (TLi †, NM; 2008-12; 7-0), although the bird had been reported prior to that date. Another adult female, the fourth for *Weld*, was documented at the residence of Bill and Inez Prather near Longmont on 19 Mar 2008 (NK †; 2008-24; 7-0). This bird was present for some time prior to the documentation date as well, though the Committee received no details on the true date span of its presence.

Lucy's Warbler – *Vermivora luciae* (8/6). The continued presence of breeding Lucy's Warblers at Yellowjacket Canyon, *Montezuma*, was confirmed when Spencer found seven birds at that location on 27 May 2007 (AS †; 2007-85; 7-0). As the species appears regular there, the CBRC has determined that no further documentation of birds from that specific location is required. However, the Committee would appreciate details on birds discovered in nearby canyons or drainages of *Montezuma* in order to document the current distribution of the species. If the population at Yellowjacket Canyon proves not to be regular in the future, based on reports from COBirds or News from the Field, the Committee may again request documentation from that site.

Cape May Warbler – *Dendroica tigrina* (23/5). A male at Bonny Res.

on 21 May 2007 (AS; 2007-118, 7-0) is a first for *Yuma* and only the fourth to be recorded this century in Colorado.

Pine Warbler – *Dendroica pinus* (34/17). One at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar on 14 Oct 2007 (BKP; 2007-71; 6-1) provided the third record for *Prowers*. A first-cycle female foraged among Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) trees at the Denver West Business Park in *Jefferson* on 31 Dec 2007 (BM; 2007-109; 7-0). This is the second time the species has been found at that location (and in the county as a whole); a previous bird was present there during the late winter of 2005. Lastly, an alternate-plumaged male was at Sydney LeNeve's feeder in Fort Collins on 16 Mar 2008 (NK †; 2008-23; 7-0).

Summer Tanager – *Piranga rubra*. Quite out-of-season was the female found feeding upon apples (*Malus* sp.) in a residential yard in Florence, *Fremont*, on 16 Dec 2007 (BKP†, BM, MP; 2007-112; 7-0).

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (22/12). An immature bird was in northwest Colorado Springs on 23 Feb 2008 (MW †, BM †; 2008-18; 7-0) and establishes the first accepted record for well-birded *El Paso*.

Smith's Longspur – *Calcarius pictus* (2/2). On the heels of the first accepted record of Smith's Longspur in 2003, the record of one near the intersection of CRs 12 and 57 in *Sedgwick* on 8 Oct 2005 withstood close CBRC scrutiny (SL; 2005-103; 5-2, 6-1). The observer's description of the overall color pattern, primary extension, call, and rectrix pattern

was consistent with Smith's Longspur. The previous record was from *Kiowa*, where the bird was present 11 and 12 Oct 2003.

Northern Cardinal – *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Farther west than usual was the male documented in Colorado Springs,

El Paso, between 13 and 17 Mar 2007 (TLe †, BM†, CP; 2007-12, 7-0). The bird was apparently first found at the homeowners' feeder in Nov 2006, though the Committee received no details on that extended length of stay.

Painted Bunting – *Passerina ciris* (30/16). An adult male brightened the feeders of a residence in *La Veta, Huerfano*, where it was documented on 16 May 2007 (BKP †, PN; 2007-36, 7-0). The bird, the second for *Huerfano*, was apparently first detected by the homeowner on 14 May, though no details on the earlier observation were submitted to the CBRC.

Purple Finch – *Carpodacus purpureus* (37/9). Purple Finches staged an unprecedented incursion into Colorado during the winter of 2007-08. Although the Committee deliberated on details of at least 37 birds, others were reported but not documented; thus the full magnitude of the irruption will most likely not be recorded.



Purple Finch, Cañon City, Fremont County, 16 Dec 2007.
Photo by Chris Wood

The first observation was of a female-plumaged bird at Rouse Park in Cañon City on 16 Dec 2007 (CWo †, BKP †; 2007-105; 7-0), the first for *Fremont*. Seven birds (five female-type, two male) were at Sterling, *Logan*, on 21 Dec 2007 (BK; 2007-107; 7-0), furnishing the second established record for that county. Up to 14 birds were documented between 27 Jan and 1 Mar 2008 below the dam of Bonny Res. (TLe †, NP, LS †, BSc; 2008-8; 7-0); the group was apparently first detected at that location during the Bonny Res. CBC on 21 Dec 2007, but no details of the original observation were submitted to the Committee. Another group of Purple Finches was also reported from the north side of the same reservoir during the CBC, but details of that group (15 birds) were only submitted for 2 Feb 2008 (GG †, GW; 2008-9; 7-0).

Red Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra*. Spencer recorded the sonogram of a Type 3 Red Crossbill, a previously un-

recorded type from Colorado, on 4 Jul 2007 near Slumgullion Pass, *Hinsdale* (AS s; 2007-46; 7-0). The Committee sought an expert opinion of the sonogram from Dr. Craig Benkman of the University of Wyoming, the world's premier authority on Red Crossbill types. Dr. Benkman's response was that the evidence was good for establishing that the bird was of Type 3.

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 species. 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 which does not mention certain requisite field marks or which indicates 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.

Brant – *Branta bernicla*. The description of an adult individual at Boulder Res., *Boulder*, on 14 Nov 2007 was most likely that of a Brant

but unfortunately the information provided was ultimately too sketchy to truly establish the identity of the bird (2007-96; 4-3, 2-5). The bird was described as being an all-black goose with a "white band around the neck," white undertail coverts, and a small bill, seen at a distance of roughly 0.4 miles. Some Committee members were confused by the characterization of the white band around the neck. That could suggest Canada (*Branta canadensis*) or Cackling Goose (*B. richardsoni*), both of which are species that truly can have a white band completely encircling the neck, whereas the white patches along the sides of the neck in Brants can meet on the anterior portion of the neck, but never the posterior. The observer specifically noted that the undertail coverts were white, a trait common to all goose species in Colorado, yet did not mention whether the bird had white flank patches, a trait more indicative of Brant. No discussion of the breast/belly coloration was provided.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Anas penelope*. Photographs, coupled with a very brief narrative discussing observed field traits, were submitted to the Committee of a female-plumaged wigeon seen on 14 Nov 2007 at Pueblo Res. (2007-96; 5-2, 1-6). Separation of female Eurasian and American Wigeons (*A. americana*) is extremely difficult. Female Eurasian Wigeons are quite variable, but generally have a more rufous head and neck (usually gray in American) and show less contrast between the head, neck, and upperparts. The proximal underwing median coverts on Eurasian Wigeon are grayish,

rather than white. Also, the lesser and median coverts have less white, and the chin and throat have little or no spotting compared to American. Submitted photographs did show a somewhat rufous-colored head and neck with little contrast. However, some American Wigeons can show that characteristic. The observer noted that the underwings appeared grayish, a good indicator for Eurasian. However, there is another field mark that is pretty consistent between the two species. On American Wigeon, there is a noticeable black edge to the gape of the bill that is usually absent from Eurasian. Although the observer did not note that trait, the photographs clearly show a definite black gape, which would be indicative of an American Wigeon. Hybridization between the two species is well-documented and perhaps the mixing of interspecific traits present on the bird was the result of a mixed pairing.

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus*. Documentation of one bird in a flock of 40 White-faced Ibis at Pastorius Res. on 12 Apr 2005 suggested Glossy Ibis (2005-18; 1-6); however, most members commented that hybridization was not addressed and the length of time between observation and submittal (seven months, with a report written from memory) provided reason to be conservative in their vote not to accept. The bird's features were described as “very similar to the accompanying” White-faced Ibis. Specific characteristics described included “grayish-blue facial skin edged faintly with light gray or off-white above and below, but not extending

to or behind the eye”; “fairly dark” legs that “did not show any distinctive coloration”; and a bill similar to that of White-faced, but “slightly tanner or buffier.” This description suggests that the ibis was not in fully-developed alternate plumage, further complicating its identification.

Harris's Hawk – *Parabuteo unicinctus*. An interesting report of a hawk seen near Aguilar, *Las Animas*, on 15 Oct 2007 that had “rufous shoulders and rufous underwing coverts, as well as a distinct white band on the base of the tail” did not include enough information to confirm the bird as a Harris's Hawk (2007-119; 0-7). The bird may have been a Harris's, but with no description of the remaining tail pattern, all CBRC members felt that Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) were not ruled out.

Laughing Gull – *Leucophaeus atricilla*. Scant details of a possible second-cycle Laughing Gull seen at Jumbo Res., *Logan*, on 15 Aug 2007 were submitted to the Committee (2007-49; 4-3, 2-5). The majority of Committee members maintained that the description lacked comparison with Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*), that it did not describe the length of the bill, and that the noted “white eye crescents” are also a Franklin's Gull trait.

Black Swift – *Cypseloides niger*. A very intriguing report of three swifts associating with White-throated Swifts (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) near Coaldale, *Fremont*, on the unprecedented early date of 15 Apr 2008 was not accepted (2008-29; 4-3, 3-4) mainly because

of the brevity of the report, which only noted that the birds were large all-dark swifts, larger than the nearby White-throats. The observer presented no indication of why the birds in question were even members of the family Apodidae. No information on flight style, shape, or width of wing was given, and judging size of swifts at a distance is difficult due to the erratic and fast movements of the group.

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens*. A wood-pewee near Crook, Logan, on 11 Jun 2005 may have been this species but received only a single vote of support (2005-66; 1-6). Most committee members in dissent commented that the observer's limited observation (consisting of a single call and very brief visual sighting) and consequently short documentary evidence were not enough to support the acceptance of this individual among the state's confirmed bird records. The bird's song, heard once and described as "pee-a-wee," is suggestive of Eastern Wood-Pewee, but there was no plumage description, and the length of time between observation and documentation submittal (over eight months, with a report written from memory) provided few reasons for committee members to support the documentation.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Catharus minimus*. The reports of one at CBR,

Pueblo, on 15 May 2006 (2006-61, 5-2, 3-4), one at Soapstone Ranch, Larimer, on 16 May 2006 (2006-67; 4-3, 2-5), and another at the same location on 17 May 2006 (2006-69; 4-3, 3-4) met with mixed Committee support. Although descriptions of each were suggestive of Gray-cheeked Thrush (including discussions of mandible color, overall grayness of the head and body, and thin eye-ring), most voters maintained that the descriptions were simply too vague, and that there was not enough information provided as to why the birds were even *Catharus* thrushes, as the observers did not discuss size and structure. As such, the CBRC could not accept descriptions of the three birds.

Hepatic Tanager – *Piranga flava*. The full description of an adult female at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, on 11 May 2005 as "a solid orange-brown *Piranga* tanager [with] dark gray bill and dark auricular patch" was considered insufficient for acceptance by the majority of committee members despite their belief that the experienced observer saw a Hepatic Tanager (2005-43; 2-5). The current Committee is conservative and consistent in its decisions not to accept minimally described birds, even those described by experienced observers familiar to the Committee, into the state's rare bird archives.

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: SA: Susan Allerton; JBn: Jason Beason; JBy: Jim Beatty; RC: Rick Clawges; DF: Doug Faulkner; BG: Brian Gibbons; Susan Gifford; GG: Gregg Goodrich; LJ: Lacreia Johnson; BK: Bill Kaempfer; JK: Joey Kellner; NK: Nick Komar; SL: Steve Larson; TL: Tony Leukering; TLI: Thomas Litteral; Karl Lukens; BM: Bill Maynard; NM: Nancy Merrill; RM: Rich Miller;

PN: Polly Neldner; JO: Judi Ogle; SO: Stan Oswald; CP: Christy Pals; BKP: Brandon K. Percival; MP: Mark Peterson; NP: Nathan Pieplow; BPr: Bill Prather; SR: Scott Rashid; BSc: Bill Schmoker; TS: Tom Shultz; LS: Larry Semo; Randy Siebert; DS: Dave Silverman; AS: Andrew Spencer; Walter Szeliga; GW: Glenn Walbek; CWi: Cole Wild; MW: Marty Wolf; CWo: Chris Wood.

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THE HUNGRY BIRDER

Alamosa “Thyme”

John J. Rawinski

There is nothing like rolling in from a rigorous outing of birding only to face the pleasant task of deciding where you might catch a bite. In Alamosa, despite its relatively small size, you will have some fine choices.

When you visit Alamosa, you might expect there to be a wide variety of Mexican restaurants, and you will not be disappointed. There are about a half dozen from which to choose. My family's favorites include **Calvillo's Mexican Restaurant** at 400 Main Street and **Nino's** at 617 6th Street. Both of these places offer a wide variety of Mexican specialties, and the portions are very adequate. The Calvillo's buffet is extraordinary. Nino's hot green chile will make most eyes water, so keep a cold beverage handy when you sample your dinner. Some other good Mexican places include **El Charro Cafe** at 421 6th Street and **Oscar's Restaurant** at 520 Main.