

## REPORTS FROM THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Jack Reddall, Chairman  
CFO Official Records Committee  
4450 South Alton Street  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - - - - Selasphorus sasin

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation submitted regarding the report of an occurrence of an Allen's Hummingbird along the Gold Camp Road near Colorado Springs in El Paso County on August 15, 1972. Two males and one female were reported on this date at hummingbird feeders. The CFO Official Records Committee has ruled that this report is unsatisfactory due to the great difficulty of field separation of this species and the Rufous Hummingbird which it greatly resembles. The documentation unfortunately was too sketchy and therefore not convincing enough for the Committee to find acceptable. The Allen's Hummingbird remains an invalid species for the state of Colorado.

## Chairman's comment:

A brief dissertation on the difficulties of separating Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds in the field accompanied the report of the occurrence of an Allen's Hummingbird in the Colorado Springs area from July 30 through September 5, 1972. The CFO Official Records Committee also turned down this report (see Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 15). It is quite possible that the addition of the Allen's Hummingbird to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado will depend on an exceptionally good color photograph with detailed written documentation or the collecting of a specimen.

March 3, 1973

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - - - - Amazilia yucatanensis

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation presented to support the sighting of an adult Buff-bellied Hummingbird near Golden in Jefferson County on August 7, 1970. After reviewing the data presented by the two observers involved, the Committee concluded that the record must be rejected on the grounds that (1) the descriptions lacked sufficient details and did not, in fact, really describe a Buff-bellied Hummingbird; (2) the observers missed key field marks. Therefore, the Buff-bellied Hummingbird remains an invalid species for the state of Colorado.

## Chairman's comment:

The probability of this Mexican and Central American species occurring in our state must be regarded as bordering on the incredible, since it barely reaches the United States in very limited numbers only in extreme southern Texas. The Committee requires that each and every Sight Report be a carefully and completely recorded document of what was actually seen by the observer(s) and where rare species such as the Buff-bellied Hummingbird is concerned, a full report covering all key field marks is mandatory. Regrettably, this was not the case in this matter. The observers reported watching a "large (?) hummingbird which came to feed on yellow daisies (Anthemis) for a period of thirty seconds". The following key field marks were either missed or observed but not reported by both observers: (1) green throat, (2) notched, cinnamon-rufous tail, (3) faintly decurved red or pinkish bill. Furthermore, the reference to a "large" hummingbird suggests that the bird in question was somewhat bigger than the normally expected hummers. Actually Buff-bellied Hummingbirds average approximately the same size as the abundant Broad-tailed Hummingbird (4"-4 1/2").

Unquestionably, what caught the eyes of the observers was what one reported to be as a "gleaming yellow bill" and the other "a large, bright bill", neither of which befits the bill of a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. Nevertheless, the presence of a "yellow-billed" hummer is certainly unusual and of interest. On October 8, 1972, Van Remsen wrote the Chairman from his residence at Berkeley, California as follows:

"Ten minutes ago I saw a hummingbird here with a yellow base of the bill. It was a male Anna's (Calypte anna) with either some sort of bright, lichen-like growth on the proximal half of its bill or a pigment deformity. It was striking. I knew it would be of interest to you in light of the Buff-bellied Hummingbird report from Colorado. At least we know for sure that some type of abnormality can occur. It all brings home the fact that all field marks of very rare birds must be seen in order to count it."

Bright, lichen-like growth, pigment deformity, maybe even pollen from yellow daisies--whatever, all of us must certainly be careful and critical observers of what we see.

April 15, 1973

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - - - - Seiurus motacilla

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation submitted regarding the report of an occurrence of a Louisiana Waterthrush along Beaver Creek near its confluence with the south fork of the Republican River at Hale in Yuma County. This sighting was made on May 11, 1968, and accounts listing the pertinent details were published in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, Number 6, Summer 1969, page 26; The Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists (now the Lark Bunting), Volume 3, Number 9, June 1968; this species is also listed in the "Summary of Colorado's 1968 Spring Count" as published in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, Number 4, Summer 1968, page 10. Both accounts listed above credit the Louisiana Waterthrush as being number 443 on the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado.

The CFO Official Records Committee after reviewing the documentation surrounding this report, has ruled the sighting as unsatisfactory and consequently should be removed from the Official State List. The Committee in its deliberations felt that this species is extremely difficult to distinguish from the similar appearing Northern Waterthrush, and unless a specimen is obtained or extremely good color photographs taken, acceptance of a sight report must depend upon detailed records submitted by a number of qualified observers who had a good deal of time to study the bird.

## Chairman's comment:

From the documentation that was presented, it was obvious that the observer saw a waterthrush. The question is which species--Louisiana Waterthrush (Seiurus motacilla) or Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis)? Separation of the two North American species is extremely difficult both in the field as well as in the hand. These difficulties are most certainly inadequately covered in most of the popular field guides, and unless the observer is thoroughly familiar and experienced with both species, field identification can prove very tricky. A thorough treatise on separating these waterthrushes appeared in California Birds, Volume 2, Number 1, 1971, pages 1 through 10, by Dr. Laurence C. Binford. Anyone interested in further information on the identities of these two species is urged to read Dr. Binford's article.

March 3, 1973

## RARE AND UNUSUAL RECORDS REVIEWED BY THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

ARCTIC LOON - *Gavia arctica*

Two, observed at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County, November 8 through 13, 1972; observed by many; written documentation on file submitted by Ward L. Chadwick, MD (original observer), Jim Lane, John Cooper, Harold Holt, Jack Reddall. (File No. 1-72-1)

One, observed at Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison County, September 30 and October 1, 1972 by Dr. A. Sidney Hyde and Don Radovich both of whom submitted written reports. (File No. 1-72-21)

Chairman's comment: The above two records represent the fifth and sixth records of the Arctic Loon for Colorado and only the second and third in this century.

GREEN HERON - *Butorides virescens*

One, photographed in color at Morrison, Jefferson County, May 9, 1965 by Harold Holt; photographs on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 5-72-28)

One, photographed in color at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County, May 16, 1970 by Harold Holt; photographs on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 5-72-27)

Chairman's comment: Although there are numerous sightings of this species over the years from around the state, there are no specimens in any of our museum collections; thus these photographs represent the first concrete evidence of its occurrence in Colorado.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - *Florida caerulea*

One adult, observed and documented by Van Truan at CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, August 1, 1971. (File No. 5-72-11)

CATTLE EGRET - *Bubulcus ibis*

One, observed in a marshy tract just to the west of Barr Lake, Adams County from April 20 through May 30, 1971 by many observers; photographed in color by Harold Holt; photographs on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 5-72-29)

Chairman's comment: Of the ten state records, the above represents the first photographic evidence; the remaining records are all sight reports. There are no specimens for the state.

LOUISIANA HERON - *Hydranassa tricolor*

One, observed at Barr Lake, Adams County, July 25, 1971 (and probably the same bird again on August 1, 1971 at the Mile High Duck Club, Adams County) by Harold Holt, Ward L. Chadwick, MD, Pam and Roy Gruver, Jack Reddall and Van Remsen. Color photographs obtained by Harold Holt and Van Remsen. Mr. Holt's photographs are on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 5-72-31)

Chairman's comment: Besides the above photographic record, there are two sight reports for this species in Colorado.

ROSS' GOOSE - *Chen rossi*

One, observed at the CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, April 21 through 23, 1972 by David Griffiths, David Silverman, Van Truan and Sam Gadd. Written documentation submitted by David Griffiths and Van Truan. (File No. 8-72-12)

GREATER SCAUP - *Aythya marila*

One, picked up dead along the shore of Lake Maria about five miles east of Walsenburg, Huerfano County, November 11, 1972, by David Griffiths; written reports along with sketches submitted. (File No. 8-72-9)

KNOT - *Calidris canutus*

One, observed at Lake Henry, Crowley County, May 13, 1972 by Van Truan, Joey Truan and Michael Schultz; color photographs obtained by Michael Schultz and on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 19-72-16)

STILT SANDPIPER - *Micropalama himantopus*

Two, observed at Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison County, September 10, 1972 by Dr. A. Sidney Hyde and David Galinat; color photographs obtained by David Galinat and are on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 19-72-22)

Chairman's comment: This is a rare "western slope" record for this species.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - *Tryngites subruficollis*

One, observed at the CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, April 27, 1971 by Joey Truan and Van Truan; written documentation submitted by Van Truan. (File No. 19-72-17)

RED PHALAROPE - Phalaropus fulicarius

One, in winter plumage, observed at the CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, April 13 through 15, 1972 by many; written documentation submitted by David Griffiths and Van Truan. (File No. 21-72-18)

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - Centurus carolinus

One, observed at Muir Springs Park, Morgan County, November 4, 1972 by Harold Holt, Jim Lane and Steve Larson; written documentation submitted by Jim Lane and Steve Larson. (File No. 33-72-2)

CAROLINA WREN - Thryothorus ludovicianus

One, observed in the vicinity of 10th and Field Streets, Lakewood, December 11 and 12, 1972; seen by several; written documentation provided by John Cooper and Jim Lane. (File No. 42-72-10)

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER - Toxostoma curvirostre

One, observed about 15 miles east of Trinidad, Las Animas County, April 17, 1971 by Van Truan who also submitted a written report. (File No. 43-72-19)

Chairman's comment: The Committee has researched 19 records for this species, all sight reports except for one color photograph report which is currently being circulated to the membership. There are no specimens.

VARIED THRUSH - Ixoreus naevius

One, observed at 1330 Kipling Street, Lakewood, November 27 through December 28, 1972; seen by many observers; first seen by Don Noyce; written reports submitted by Bernice Noyce, Jim Lane, Ray Olson and John Cooper. (File No. 44-72-8)

VEERY - Hylocichla fuscescens

Two, observed at Manitou Lake, Teller County, June 15 through 30, 1972 by Mr. and Mrs. Dominic A. Bartol, Jr. Black and white photographs obtained by Mr. Bartol and are on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 44-72-3)

WOOD THRUSH - *Hylocichla mustelina*

One, observed at Grand Junction, Mesa County, September 13 through 15, 1972 by Lucy Ela who submitted written documentation to the Committee. (File No. 44-72-35)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - *Vireo flavifrons*

One, observed along the Republican River downstream from Bonny Dam, Yuma County, April 24 and 25, 1971 by Hugh Kingery and Rich Bottorff; written documentation submitted by Hugh Kingery. (File No. 51-72-38)

CAPE MAY WARBLER - *Dendroica tigrina*

One, adult male photographed in color at Kittredge, Jefferson County, May 10, 1964 by Harold Holt; photographs on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 52-72-26)

Chairman's comment: There are only a few sight reports of this species for the state. Mr. Holt's photographs are the first on record. There are no specimens.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - *Dendroica pensylvanica*

One, fall plumaged or immature bird observed about three miles north-east of Durango, La Plata County, September 24, 1972 by Richard Stransky, Pat Roberts and Florence Whiteman. All three observers filed individual written reports. (File No. 52-72-4)

SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea*

One, adult male observed at Castlewood Dam, Douglas County, July 13, 1972 by Mr. and Mrs. Dominic A. Bartol, Jr. Mr. Bartol furnished written documentation. (File No. 55-72-5)

One, observed about five miles northeast of Gunnison, Gunnison County, September 3, 1972 by Dr. A. Sidney Hyde who filed a written report. (File No. 55-72-25)

PAINTED BUNTING - *Passerina ciris*

One, adult male injured and captured at Pueblo, Pueblo County, May 2, 1972. Released the same day and stayed in the area until May 10, 1972. First identified by Van Truan; seen by many. Written reports submitted by David Griffiths and Van Truan. Color photographs obtained by Robert Bregenzer which are on file with the Official Records Committee. (File No. 56-72-20)

WHITE-WINGED JUNCO - Junco aiken

Two, observed one mile west of Silverthorne, Summit County, December 23 through 25, 1972 by Mrs. Elinor Kingery and Hugh Kingery. Written report filed by Hugh Kingery. (File No. 56-72-36)

SNOW BUNTING - Plectrophenax nivalis

One, observed with a flock of Horned Larks about 10.6 miles due south from the I-80's interchange one mile west of Wiggins, Morgan County, December 31, 1972 by Van Remsen and Jack Reddall both of whom submitted written documentation. (File No. 56-72-34)

Two, observed at Prairie Divide, eight miles north of Red Feather Lakes, Larimer County by Sue and David Bolton, December 31, 1972 and January 1, 1973. Color photographs secured by David Bolton which are on file with the Official Records Committee along with his written report. (File No. 56-72-40)

SNOW BUNTING - Plectrophenax nivalis

One, observed at Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Jefferson County, November 3, 1972.

Chairman's comment: Reported sighting REJECTED by the CFO Official Records Committee.

May 22, 1973

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NOTE

The Editors of American Birds have revised the boundaries of the regions used in that publication. Colorado now lies entirely within the Central Rockies/Great Basin region, and all reports should go to Hugh Kingery, 10 Emerson, Denver, Colorado, 80218, for the whole state. The change becomes effective with the breeding season.

No longer will Front Rangers have to ponder to which Region their observations belong.

Regional Editor Hugh Kingery hopes that each town along the Front Range will appoint a local reporter to send in observations to American Birds, as have groups in Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Pueblo, Durango, Grand Junction and Colorado Springs.