

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE RECORD  
1980-1981

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This report contains records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee (R.C.) from 1980-1981. Activities of the R.C. from its inception in May 1972 to date have been reported by Reddall (1973a, b, c; 1974a, b; 1975; 1976a, b) Andrews (1978, 1979) and Chase (1981a, b). The list of Colorado birds as recognized by the R.C. stands at 430 species as of 1 May 1982.

The R.C. currently consists of nine members: Robert Andrews (Denver), Daniel Casey (Lakewood), Charles Chase (Longmont, Chairman), Kevin Cook (Fort Collins), Ed Hollowed (Meeker), Steve Larson (Boulder), Tim Manolis (Boulder), Ron Ryder (Fort Collins), and James Sedgewick (Fort Collins). All R.C. records are deposited in the Department of Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History.

All records received are reviewed by the committee and rated according to an A-B-C-D system. A is a record for which the submitted documentation supports the stated or claimed identification. B indicates that the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made. C indicates that the submitted documentation is too brief or incomplete to allow its inclusion in either of the two previous categories. D is used when a member is reviewing his/her own record or is unfamiliar with the species in question and can give no opinion. A record, once completed will be resubmitted through the Committee only if an error was made initially or if new information regarding the identification of the species in general is brought forward. Since all records are stored at the Museum and are open to the public, anyone may use these records as they wish.

The following is a list of species for which the R.C. desires documentation (in addition to any species unrecorded from Colorado):

Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Louisiana Heron, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, European Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Whooping Crane (except W. slope), King Rail, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Woodcock, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Red Phalarope, all Jaegers, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Caspian Tern, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Anna's, Rivoli's, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Martin (E. slope

only), Short-billed Marsh Wren, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Swainson's, Blue-winged, Lucy's, Cape May, Hermit, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Prairie Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning, and Canada Warblers, Painted Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark (except at Red Lion State Wildlife area), Scott's Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle (except in San Luis Valley), Hepatic Tanager, Painted Bunting, LeConte's, Sharp-tailed, Baird's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Part I -- Species added to the Colorado list

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis). One adult (8-80-84) at Chatfield State Recreation Area, Jefferson-Douglas Co., 21 September 1980. The R.C. has received reports from Robert Andrews and Mike Fitzpatrick describing this easily identified bird in great detail. No photos obtained. As always, the possibility of exotic waterfowl being escapees cannot be ruled out without the bird in hand. However, fall is certainly when this bird would be expected as it is a fairly extensive post-breeding disperser.

Part II -- Reported species not added to the Colorado list

Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus). One observed (33-80-60) at Billy Creek State Game Area, Ouray, Co., 5 September 1980. The single report received contains convincing details, however, a second independent observer report, a photograph, or the specimen must be available before a new species may be added to the state list. This species will be placed on the hypothetical list until a second observer submits a report or another bird with adequate documentation is found.

Part III -- Reports of Rare Species

The following is a summary of the class A records reviewed by the Records Committee in 1980-1981 (records in which the submitted documentation supports the stated identification).

Olivaceous Cormorant (Phalacrocorax olivaceus). One adult (4-81-25) at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., 29 June 1981 (PG). Many observers saw this third record.

Little Blue Heron (Florida caerulea). One immature (5-81-21) at Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Co., 3 April 1981 (LH).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea). One adult (5-81-24) at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., 29 June 1981 (PG). Thirty-first record.

European Wigeon (Anas penelope). One adult male (8-81-10) at Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande Co., 5 April 1981 (SW). Eighth record.

Ross' Goose (Chen rossii). Six adults (8-81-13) at Sweitzer Lake, Delta Co., 10-12 March 1981 (MJ). Thirty-second record.

Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis). One adult (10-80-66) four miles southeast of Loveland, Larimer Co., 17 August 1980 (ML).

Gyr Falcon (Falco rusticolus). One (12-81-29) five miles east of Prewitt Reservoir, Logan Co., 4 January 1981 (LH, PG). Eighth record; well photographed and seen for several days.

Whooping Crane (Grus americana). One adult (16-80-71) at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., 21 July-25 August 1980 (CC, CL). Eighth record.

Common Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus). One adult (17-81-9) at Ryan Gulch Lake, Larimer Co., 30 April 1981 (DL). Fifth record.

Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius). One breeding plumage female (21-80-22) at Little Hills Foot Pond, Meeker, Rio Blanco Co., 27 April 1979 (MG). Eighth record.

California Gull (Larus californicus). Five adults (23-78-23) at Bow Mar Lake, Denver, Jefferson Co., 19 December 1977 (JR). One of the first winter records; this bird can now be found in Denver on any winter day.

Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan). One adult (23-81-23) west of Lafayette, Boulder Co., 6 March 1981 (MH). Rare winter record.

Little Gull (Larus minutus). One subadult (23-80-68) at Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., 13 September 1980 (RA, PM). Third record.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Two immatures (23-81-22) at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder Co., 6, 14 December 1980 (PG). Eighth record.

Least Tern (Sterna albifrons). One adult in breeding plumage (23-80-76) at Hert's Basin, Eckert, Delta Co., 11, 17, 20 May 1980 (MJ).

Least Tern (Sterna albifrons). One immature (23-80-63) at Loveland, Larimer Co., 17 August 1980 (ML).

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). One adult (23-80-79) at Sloan's Lake, Denver, Arapahoe Co., 11 August 1980 (JC). Third record.

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). One breeding plumaged adult (23-80-67) at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas Co., 14 September 1980 (FJ, HK). Noted as fourth record but may have been the same bird that was at Sloan's Lake one month earlier.

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). Two adults (23-81-12) at Chatfield State Park, Douglas-Jefferson Co.'s, 13, 14 May 1981 (DJ). Fifth record well supported with excellent comparative photos.

White-winged Dove (Zenaidura macroura). One (25-81-1) observed in Arvada, Jefferson Co., 30 June 1981 (JS).

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus). One (28-80-38) eight miles north of Grand Lake, Grand Co., 25 January 1980 (DD). Tenth record.

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus). One roadkill and one nest attempt (28-81-4) at Cameron Pass, Larimer Co., winter/spring 1981 (RR, DP). Several territorial birds were located as well as one nest that was later abandoned. The egg fragments are in the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus). One (29-81-19) in South Cheyenne Canyon, El Paso Co., 15-30 July 1981 (RB, LH). This fourth record was observed/heard by many observers and has been identified by the call as being of the SW race.

Rivoli's Hummingbird (Eugenes fulgens). One adult female (31-80-62) at General Store, Gould, Jackson Co., 19 August 1980 (ML). Twentieth record.

Blue-throated Hummingbird (Lampornis clemenciae). One adult male (31-81-6) at Beulah, Pueblo Co., July 1977 (VT, P & WS). Sixth record.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Picoides scalaris). One male and one pair (33-80-75) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 26, 27 May 1979 and 3 February 1979 (LG, MA). Probable breeding locality as well as wintering record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus). One pair (34-81-18) bred at a ranch near Akron, Logan Co., June 1981 (HD, LH). The female apparently was killed in a hail storm and the two chicks died shortly thereafter. All three and the nest are in the collections at the Denver Museum of Natural History. This seventeenth record is the first breeding record in Colorado.

Short-billed Marsh Wren (Cistothorus platensis). Numerous birds (42-79-14) at Red Lion Unit, South Platte River State Wildlife Area, Logan/Sedgwick Co.'s, 27 June 1978 (WB). Quite diagnostic plumage and call description but rather phenomenal numbers (14-17) of this little known bird.

Wood Thrush (Hylocichla ustulata). One (44-80-70) Boulder, Boulder Co., 3, 10, 11 October 1980, (HSW).

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus). One immature (51-80-69) seventeen miles SW of Fort Morgan, Morgan Co., 13 November 1980 (JCR). Very late observation of this fifth record.

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus). One (51-81-11) in Lakewood, Jefferson Co., 26 April 1981 (ME). Sixth record.

Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus). One (52-80-72) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 27 May 1979 (MA).

Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus). One male (52-80-20) on C.U. campus, Boulder, Boulder Co., 15 June 1981 (LH). Tenth record.

Tennessee Warbler (Vermivora peregrina). One male (52-81-26) at bog one-quarter mile south of Lake Eldora, Boulder Co., 21, 27, 28 June 1981 (DA, MF, JK). Extremely well documented (photos, tape recordings and several independent reports) of a territorial male in this boreal bog. No female was located and breeding remains only suspected.

Northern Parula (Parula americana). One singing male (52-81-2) one-half mile east of Eldorado Springs, Boulder Co., 3, 4, 5, July 1981 (JK). Another mid-summer territorial male.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica). One male (52-80-73) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 20 May 1979 (MA).

Bay-breasted Warbler (Dendroica castanea). One pair (52-80-74) at Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., 16, 20 May 1979 (MA).

Kentucky Warbler (Oporornis formosus). One male (52-81-16) at Durango, La Plata Co., 1 June 1981 (GC). Sixth record.

Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum). Four to five birds (54-81-17) breeding near Pleasantview, Montezuma Co., 28 April-4 June 1981 (CB). This oriole appears to be well established in the NW corner of Colorado. It should also be looked for along the entire western border.

Hepatic Tanager (Piranga flava). One adult male (55-77-45) at Bear Canyon, Boulder, Boulder Co., 9 May 1977 (SL). Fifth record.

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus). One female (56-80-85) Poudre River, Fort Collins, Larimer Co., 27 December 1980 (DC). Twenty-sixth record.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). One adult (56-81-15) Highline Canal, Littleton, Douglas/Arapahoe Co.'s, 28 February 1981 (DC). Rare winter record.

The following is a summary of class B and C records reviewed by the Records Committee in 1980-1981 (records in which the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made or in which details are incomplete).

Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*). Six (8-80-59) at Wayne Seaton Pond, Buena Vista, Chaffee Co., 27, 29 March 3, 4, 11 April 1980. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details and did not eliminate Whistling Swan at all.

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). Two (8-81-8) at New Castle, Garfield Co., 14, 15 May 1981. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details and the photos supplied do not clearly eliminate Snow Goose.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). One immature (10-80-78) at Cherry Creek Recreation Area, 28 August 1981. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). One (19-80-65) at Loveland, Larimer Co., 17 August 1980. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). One adult (23-80-64) at Horseshoe Lake, Loveland, Larimer Co., 22 August 1980. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). One (30-80-81) five miles south of Conejos Peak, San Juan Mountains, Conejos Co., 14 July 1980. The R.C. felt that Chimney Swift was not adequately eliminated from this report.

Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*). One (51-80-13) at Glenwood Springs, Garfield Co., 15 August 1979. The R.C. felt that this report had insufficient details.

#### Contributors

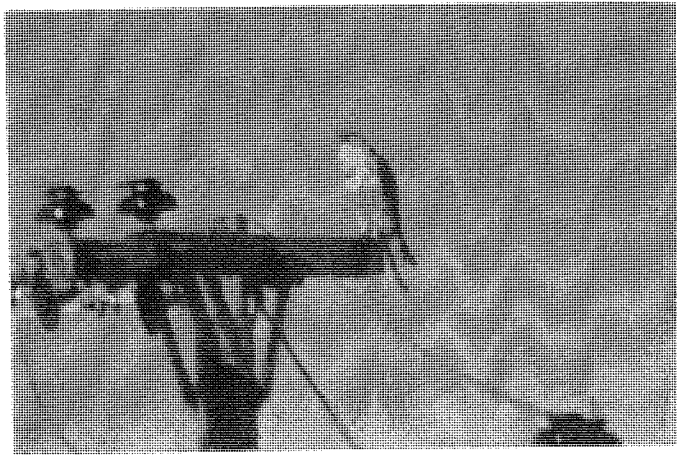
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Robert Andrews (RA)  
Winston Brockner (WB)  
Richard Bunn (RB)  
Clair Button (CB)  
Daniel Casey (DC)  
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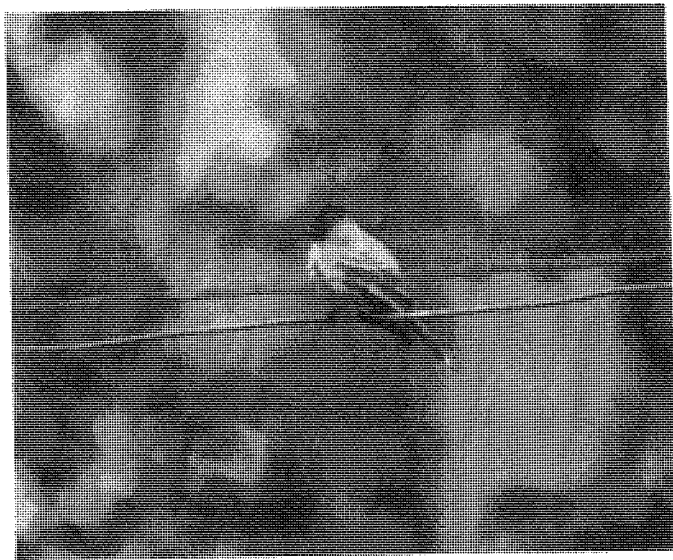
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#### References

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Gyrfalcon (12-81-29) near Prewitt Reservoir, Logan Co., January 1981.



Vermilion Flycatcher (34-81-18) near Akron, Logan Co., June 1981.