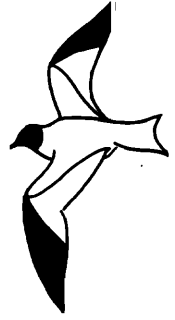


WESTERN BIRDS



Volume 18, Number 2, 1987

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1978-1985

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The last Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) Records Committee report in *Western Birds* is for 1976-1977 (Andrews 1979). The time elapsed since the last report precludes discussion of all records handled by the Records Committee (RC) in this period, so this report covers only first, second, and third state records and new or very unusual definite breeding records for Colorado from 1978 through 1985. The full reports of the RC for this period can be found in Chase (1981, 1982, 1983) and Gent (1984; 1985a,b; 1986). This report discusses 21 additions to and 8 deletions from the CFO state list, resulting in a net gain of 13 species from the 427 mentioned by Andrews (1979). Thus, the CFO state list for Colorado currently stands at 440 species, 5 of which are introduced. Andrews (1980) summarized the state list in 1980, and the present list is summarized by Gent (1987).

The RC has had three chairmen during the period covered by this report: Robert Andrews 1978-1980, Charles Chase 1980-1983, and Peter Gent 1983-1985. The members of the committee during this period were Winston William Brockner, Richard Bunn, Daniel Casey, Kevin Cook, David Griffiths, Edward Hollowed, Mark Holmgren, Harold Holt, Mark Janos, Ron Lambeth, Steve Larson, Tim Manolis, Peter Moulton, Ronald Ryder, James Sedgewick, and Richard Stransky.

The following list is of those species seen in Colorado fewer than 10 times. The RC desires reports if these species, or any unrecorded from the state, are seen or heard in Colorado. The RC also desires reports of new breeding records in the state, species significantly changing their breeding range in the state, and very unusual occurrences of other species. Reports should be sent to Chairman CFO Records Committee, c/o Dept. of Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205. A CFO checklist of Colorado birds is available from the above address or the author upon request. Please send reports of Red-throated and Yellow-billed loons, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork,

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Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Harlequin Duck, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black-Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow, Black, and King rails, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little, Mew, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous-winged, Great Black-backed, Ross', and Ivory gulls, Arctic Tern, Marbled and Ancient murrelets, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated and Anna's hummingbirds, Black Phoebe, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Long-billed and Bendire's thrashers, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Lucy's, Hermit, Prairie, Cerulean and Swainson's warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut and Mourning warblers, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Henslow's, LeConte's, and Sharp-tailed sparrows, and Brambling.

In the following sections, reports are identified by a three-part number (A-B-C). A is a code number from 1 to 56 for the bird family (numbers have not been altered despite the recent changes in the AOU taxonomic order), B is the year of the report, and C is the sequence number in which the report was received during the year.

PART 1. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS DUE TO AOU TAXONOMIC CHANGES

ARCTIC LOON (*Gavia arctica*). Deleted from the state list by decision of AOU (1985). No Colorado records are known to pertain to this species.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*). Added by decision of AOU (1985). The Pacific Loon is an uncommon fall migrant in Colorado.

CLARK'S GREBE (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Added by decision of AOU (1985). Clark's Grebe is an uncommon breeder mainly in the southern part of the state, whereas the Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*) is a common breeder throughout the state.

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Otus kennicottii*). Added by decision of AOU (1983). The Western Screech-Owl is a fairly common breeder throughout the state except in the eastern and northeastern plains. Here the Eastern Screech-Owl (*O. asio*) is an uncommon breeder.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*). Added by decision of AOU (1985). The Red-naped Sapsucker is a common breeder in the mountains of Colorado. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. varius*) is an uncommon migrant throughout the eastern plains and is not known to have bred, nor is it expected to breed, in the state.

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO (*Junco caniceps*). Deleted by decision of AOU (1983). The Dark-eyed Junco (*J. hyemalis*) is a common resident and breeder in the mountains of Colorado.

ROSY FINCH (*Leucosticte arctoa*). Added by decision of AOU (1983). The Rosy Finch is a common resident and breeder in the mountains of Colorado.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*). Deleted by decision of AOU (1983).

BLACK ROSY-FINCH (*Leucosticte atrata*). Deleted by decision of AOU (1983).

BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH (*Leucosticte australis*). Deleted by decision of AOU (1983).

PART 2. SPECIES DELETED FROM THE STATE LIST

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). The only reported specimen of this species for Colorado, collected in El Paso Co. on 22 May 1916, is in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 39079). The specimen was examined by Mark Holmgren and Joe Strauch and found to be a White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*).

COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*). The single sight report from Marston Reservoir, Jefferson Co., on 25 Feb 1932 contains no details. The RC thought that this report does not justify the inclusion of Common Eider on the state list.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*). The reason for removing this species is that the main field mark used to identify it in submitted reports has been the white shoulder patches. This field mark does not eliminate Chestnut-collared Longspur (*C. ornatus*) in fall, and most reports are for September.

PART 3. ACCEPTED FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD STATE RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One male collected in Jan 1944 at Sterling, Logan Co., by K.C. Morse and now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 23974). The specimen was identified by Allan R. Phillips. One (1-82-2) observed on the Denver Christmas Bird Count, 19 Dec 1981, at Chatfield State Recreation Area, Jefferson Co. (Robert Andrews, Mark Holmgren, and Jack Reddall). One (1-83-1) seen at the same location on the same event the following year, 18 Dec 1982 (Mark Holmgren and Don Johnson; photo on file). First, second, and third records.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One (4-78-42) at Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., on 15 Jun 1978 (Robert Andrews). One adult (4-81-25) at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan Co., on 29 Jun 1981 (Peter Gent). Second and third records. This species is being observed in Colorado with increasing frequency and there is a recent first report from western Colorado near Delta (4-85-52, Mark Janos).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*). One adult female (N-85-35) seen in southwest Denver on 14 Sep 1985 and killed at Green Mountain Reservoir, near Kremmling, Summit Co., 2 days later (Hans Feddern and Betsy Webb; see also Webb 1985). This bird is now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 39020), and was killed because of its persistent attacks on a windsurfer! First state record, although there are records from all states surrounding Colorado except Utah and Wyoming.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*). One immature (7-85-15) seen at Nee Noshe Reservoir, Kiowa Co., from 20 Jul through Aug 1985 (Dan Bridges and Peter Gent; see also Bridges 1985). This bird associated with White-faced Ibises (*Plegadis chihi*). First state record, although again there are records from all states surrounding Colorado except Utah.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). One adult (8-80-84) at Chatfield State Recreation Area, Jefferson Co., on 21 Sep 1980 (Robert Andrews and Mike Fitzpatrick). First state record. The CFO RC decided to add this species to the state list once the possibility that the bird had escaped from known local waterfowl collections had been eliminated. The RC decided to accept species that are known to wander even when the possibility of an individual being an escapee cannot be totally eliminated. This policy differs from that of the California RC, which prefers to wait until a clear pattern of vagrancy is established; see Binford (1985).

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TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*). Seven adults and one immature (8-78-19) between early Dec 1977 and 12 Feb 1978 at Lake DeWeese, Custer Co. (Robert Andrews, Dave Griffiths, Peter Moulton, and Bruce Webb). Third state record. There are several more recent records including one from Mack, Mesa Co., of a bird banded at Red Rock Lakes NWR, Lakeview, Montana (8-84-50, Van Graham).

COMMON BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One adult (10-80-83) observed 20 and 21 Jun 1980 at Chatfield State Recreation Area, Jefferson Co. (Robert Andrews and Cate Kittleman). First state record.

BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). One (17-76-59) tape-recorded at Fort Lyon, Bent Co., on 11, 18, and 25 Jun 1975 (John Griese). One (17-82-11) briefly seen on 30 Apr 1982 at Fort Collins, Larimer Co. (David Palmer). First and second records. The RC decided to accept diagnostic sound recordings as documenting first state records.

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*). One adult (17-85-12) from 12 May to 2 Jun 1985 at Lower Latham Reservoir, Weld Co. (Jerry Cairo and Peter Gent; see also Cairo 1985). Second state record.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyryla martinica*). One adult (17-78-55) observed near Durango, La Plata Co., on 6 and 7 Aug 1978 (Elva Fox and Howard Winkler; photos on file). First state record. This species is known to wander far from its usual range, although again the possibility of an escapee cannot be totally eliminated; see the discussion under Black-bellied Whistling-Duck above.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One subadult (23-80-68) at Barr Lake, Adams Co., on 13 Sep 1980 (Robert Andrews and Peter Moulton). Third state record.

MEW GULL (*Larus canus*). One (23-80-17) in first winter plumage observed on 7 Mar 1980 at Sloans Lake, Denver Co. (Robert Andrews, Charles Chase, Mark Holmgren, and Robert Rozinski; Figure 1; photos on file). One adult (23-81-7) on 28 Apr 1981 at Union Reservoir, Longmont, Weld Co. (Timms Fowler, Mark Holmgren, and Mike Middleton). One adult (23-82-71) again at Sloans Lake, Denver Co., on 22 Mar 1982 (B.J. Rose; Figure 2; photo on file). First, second, and third records.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (*Larus glaucescens*). One first-summer bird (23-82-72) at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., on 24 and 25 Jul 1981 (Charles Chase and Peter Gent; photos on file). First state record.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). One immature (23-80-14) at Centennial Park, Arapahoe Co., from 1 to 30 Jan 1980 (Tim Manolis and Bruce Webb; Figures 3 and 4; photos on file). First state record.

ROSS' GULL (*Rhodostethia rosea*). One immature (23-83-32) observed between 28 Apr and 7 May 1983 on Jumbo Reservoir, Sedgwick Co. (Robert Andrews, Barry Knapp, and Inez and Bill Prather; Figures 5 and 6; photos on file; see also Knapp 1983). First state record, and only the fourth in the contiguous 48 states.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*). One (23-78-40) at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe Co., between 22 and 29 May 1978 (Robert Andrews and William Lybarger). Third state record; this species is being seen with increasing frequency in Colorado.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*). One immature collected on 16 Sep 1912 near Windsor, Weld Co., by G.E. Osterhaut is in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 39080). This bird was previously identified as a Common Tern (*S. hirundo*); see Conry and Webb (1982). One adult (23-80-2) at Union Reservoir, Weld Co., on 11 and 12 Sep 1979 (Charles Chase, Peter Gent, and Peter Moulton). First and second records.

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Figure 1. Mew Gull (23-80-17) in first winter plumage. Sloans Lake. Denver Co., Colorado. 7 Mar 1980.

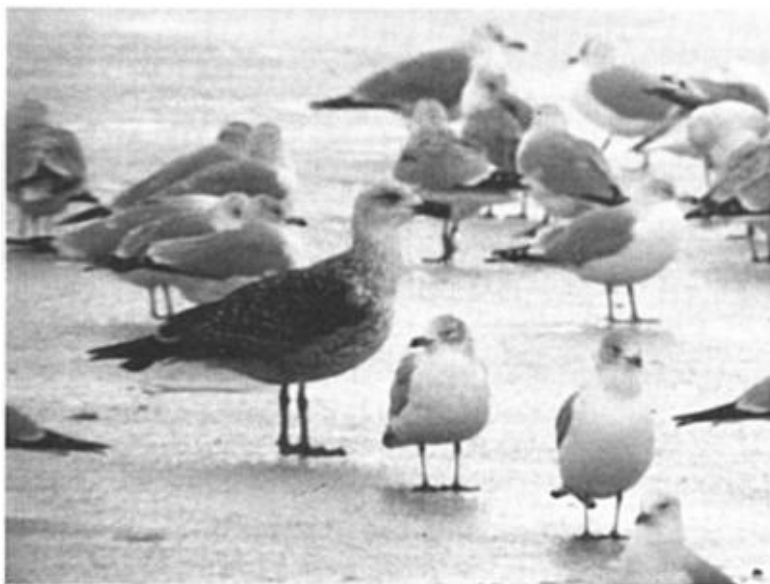
Photo by Robert Rozinski



Figure 2. Adult Mew Gull (23-82-71). Sloans Lake. Denver Co., Colorado. 22 Mar 1982.

Photo by B.J. Rose

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Figures 3 and 4. Great Black-backed Gull (23-80-14) in first winter plumage, Centennial Park, Arapahoe Co., Colorado, 3 Jan 1980. Note white background of tail with black barring and spotting; heavy barring is strongest subterminally and medially.

Photos by Bruce Webb

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Figures 5 and 6. Immature Ross' Gull (23-83-32). Jumbo Reservoir, Sedgwick Co., Colorado, between 28 Apr and 7 May 1983.

Photos by Inez Prather (above) and William R. Maynard (below)

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MARBLED MURRELET (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). One of the Asiatic race (*B. m. perdix*) found in Aspen, Pitkin Co., on 22 Aug 1982. The bird died and is now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 37691); see also Kingery (1983). First state record. This race was also recorded in Indiana in Dec. 1981 (Peterjohn 1982) and in Massachusetts in Sep 1982 (Forster 1983).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*). One (26-80-5) on 15 Oct 1975 at CF and I Reservoir, Pueblo, Pueblo Co. (Eddie Blatnick). Second state record chronologically; the first and third records were discussed by Andrews (1979).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*). One male (31-79-2) at Grand Junction, Mesa Co., from 19 Nov to 6 Dec 1978 (Helen Traylor). Third state record.

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*). One male collected on 28 May 1904 in Arvada, Jefferson Co., by H.G. Smith and now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 36457). The specimen was identified by Allan R. Phillips. First state record chronologically; the second and third records were discussed by Andrews (1979).

HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*). One female (52-78-39) at Red Rocks Park, Jefferson Co., from 7 to 9 May 1978 (Robert Andrews). One male (52-79-9) in Lakewood, Jefferson Co., from 27 to 29 Apr 1979 (Robert Andrews, Joyce and John Cooper; photos on file). Second and third records.

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*). One immature collected by Mildred Snyder at Sedalia, Douglas Co., on 18 Oct 1964 and now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 34586). The specimen was identified by Allan R. Phillips. One male (52-80-26) on 18 May 1975 at the U.S. Air Force Academy, El Paso Co. (Camille Cummings, David Griffiths, and David Thomas). One female collected north of Boulder, Boulder Co., on 25 Sep 1979 by Craig Williams and now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 37882). First, second, and third records.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*). One adult (56-85-55) at Jackson Reservoir, Morgan Co., on 10 Sep 1985 (Larry Halsey and Wade Leitner). First state record.

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*). One female (56-83-59) in Colorado Springs, El Paso Co., between 30 Oct and 4 Nov 1983 (Martha and Ed Curry, Larry Halsey, Barry Knapp and William Maynard; photos on file; see also Curry and Curry 1984). One female (56-83-60) in Boulder, Boulder Co., between 17 Dec 1983 and 15 Mar 1984 (Marjorie Foland and Robert Jickling; Figures 7 and 8; photos on file; see also Jickling 1984). First and second records. There were several other North American records in the same winter, which were summarized by Lehman (1984).

PART 4. CONFIRMED FIRST STATE BREEDING RECORDS

This section updates the breeding status given by Andrews (1980) in the 1980 state list. In that list, Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) should be a confirmed breeder.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax violaceus*). A pair bred successfully on an island at the Denver Zoo, Denver Co., in 1983 (Charles Chase), and returned in 1984 and 1985.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*). A pair (8-82-64) bred 2 miles west of Walden, Jackson Co., in 1982, producing five young (Jos Grzybowski and Michael Szymczak; photo on file). This is the first confirmed breeding in Colorado for nearly a century.

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BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*). A pair bred successfully in a Fort Collins cemetery, Larimer Co., in 1978 (Daniel Casey and Charles Chase).

MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*). One pair (19-84-44) found on nest with two eggs on 26 May 1984 at Grover, Weld Co. (Lois Webster). Four eggs were in the nest on 10 Jun, but only eggshells remained on 24 Jun, so a predator may have destroyed the eggs.

LEAST TERN (*Sterna albifrons*). The first breeding records (23-78-76) since 1949 were of pairs in 1978 at Adobe Creek Reservoir, Kiowa Co., and Horse Creek Reservoir, Otero Co., in southeast Colorado (Charles Chase; see also Chase 1979).

BOREAL OWL (*Aegolius funereus*). A pair (28-81-48) bred at Corral Park, Larimer Co., in 1981 (David Palmer and Ronald Ryder; Figure 9; photo on file). The breeding attempt failed, and the eggs are in the Denver Museum of Natural History collection. In 1982 a pair (28-82-33) bred successfully in the same location (David Palmer; Figure 10; photo on file; see also Palmer and Ryder 1984). This species has now been found in Hinsdale Co. in southwestern Colorado (28-85-45, John Rawinski; photo on file) and in Delta Co. in western Colorado (28-85-47, Mark Janos).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). One pair (34-81-18) bred near Akron, Washington Co., in 1981 (Helen Downing and Larry Halsey; photos on file). The female and two young were killed in a hailstorm 13 Jun 1981 and are now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH 37401).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*). A pair (52-78-56) bred at Westcreek, Douglas Co., in 1978 (Charles Campbell).

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*). Breeding was confirmed in 1980 on Mesa de Maya, near Kim, Las Animas Co. (Charles Chase). Observations since 1980 show that there is a small, but stable, breeding population of this species on Mesa de Maya.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A pair bred just south of Wray, Yuma Co., in 1982 (Bruce Bosley). This is the first known Colorado nesting since 1926.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). This species was first found breeding in the state at Monte Vista, Rio Grande Co., in 1973. It has recently been found breeding on the eastern plains at Fountain, El Paso Co. (54-82-31, Richard Bunn) and at Buena Vista, Chaffee Co. (54-84-28, Peter Gent). These records indicate a rapid expansion of this species' breeding range east and north in Colorado.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*). Breeding was first confirmed at Rangely, Rio Blanco Co., in 1979 (54-80-45 and 54-80-48, Austin Johnson). In 1981 breeding was confirmed at Pleasantview, Montezuma Co. (54-81-17, Clair Button) and at Mormon Gap, Rio Blanco Co. (54-81-57, Edward Hollowed). This species now breeds in most northwest Colorado counties south to Grand Junction, Mesa Co., and in Montezuma Co. in the southwest. These records indicate a recent expansion of the breeding range.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank Robert Andrews and Charles Chase for their careful comments on the first draft of this report.

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Figures 7 and 8. Brambling (56-83-60) in female plumage. Boulder, Boulder Co., Colorado, 22 Dec 1983.

Photos by Stephen Vaughan

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Figure 9. Adult Boreal Owl (28-81-48), Corral Park, Larimer Co., Colorado, 1 May 1981.



Figure 10. Young Boreal Owls (28-82-33), Corral Park, Larimer Co., Colorado, 31 Jul 1982.

Photos by David Palmer

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Accepted 24 October 1986