

**THE CFO RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR
RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1988**

by

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This report contains the decisions of the CFO Records Committee on reports submitted to it of sightings in Colorado in 1988. First, we should apologize to all CFO members that this report is nearly three years late. In 1989, the former Chairman of the Records Committee resigned, affecting the 1988 records. Peter Gent subsequently took charge of completing the first batch of records circulated in 1988. He then handed over to the new Chairman, Duane Nelson, and production of the 1988 Report fell between the cracks of this changeover. Early this year Robert Andrews pointed out to us that there was no Records Committee Report for 1988. The second batch of 1988 records was relocated and voted on recently. Thus, we thought this report should be jointly authored. Besides ourselves, other Records Committee members that voted on some or all of these records were William Brockner (Evergreen), Coen Dexter (Palisade), Joe Himmel (Greeley), William Howe (Laurel, Maryland), Mark Janos (Pueblo), Dick Schottler (Golden), David Silverman (Rye), Kip Stransky (Durango), and Van Truan (Pueblo). This report includes all the 1988 reports.

Records reviewed by the Committee receive an A, B or C designation according to the votes of the members. An A designation requires an A vote from five of the seven members who voted on each of the records. An A designation supports the identification: a B designation denotes a misidentification: a C designation denotes that the record is regarded as incomplete. All records are given a permanent file number e.g. 30-88-18. The first number is the family code (which have not been recoded despite changes in the AOU Checklist of North American Birds), the second number is the year of the report and the third number is the chronological order in which the records were received.

Part 1. Reported Species added to the CFO State List.

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) 23-88-33. One in winter plumage was seen at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County, on 8 and 9 October 1988. It was extensively documented in complete reports by Jack Reddall, Steve Stachowiak and David Martin. This addition to the state list was not unexpected as this species breeds in small numbers on the East Coast and Great Lakes regions, and most gulls wander extensively. This was the first occurrence of this species in Colorado, but this record is now published after the second state record, which was at Jim Hamm Pond, Boulder County, and Union Reservoir, Weld County 9-15 April 1990, see Nelson (1992).

Part 2. Reported Species not added to the CFO State List.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) 30-88-18. One bird was seen and photographed at Sweitzer Lake, Delta County on 22 May 1987. A majority of committee members said that they did not know enough to make a decision on this report, so a copy of the report and a photograph were sent to Paul Lehman and Guy McCaskie. Paul Lehman responded "Basically as time goes on I get more and more convinced that some *Chaetura*, especially single individuals, are largely unidentifiable". He also wrote that "Silent means relatively little for a lone bird. Chimneys tend to vocalize more, especially when in a flock, but single birds of either species can remain quite silent. Migrant Vaux's are often silent even when in flocks. Contrasting white throat is shown by both species, especially Chimneys, and both species can have paler rumps". Guy McCaskie also made similar remarks to those quoted above and said, "Unfortunately the characters used to separate Chimney and Vaux's Swifts in the field are subjective, and the identification of any individual out of range is subject to some degree of error". He concludes, "I am afraid that I would not endorse this as the first record of Vaux's Swift in Colorado." We conclude from these expert opinions that a specimen is probably going to be necessary to include Vaux's Swift on the CFO State List.

Part 3. "A" Designation Records.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) 1-88-11. One in winter plumage was seen at CF&I Reservoir, Pueblo County on 12 October 1987 (David Silverman).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) 1-88-25. One in winter plumage was at Hamilton Reservoir, Rawhide Power Plant, Larimer County for over two months in the winter of 1988-89. Photographs dated 5 November 1988 were received, but only one report dated 20 November 1988 was received (David Leatherman, photographs, Peter Gent, report).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) 2-88-27. One in winter plumage was at Hamilton Reservoir, Larimer County on 28 November 1988 (William Howe).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 7-88-28. One adult in breeding plumage was south of Lower Latham Reservoir, Weld County on 25 May 1988 (David Martin).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 8-88-29. A single adult male was at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande County on 14 March 1988 (John Rawinski).

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) 8-88-6. A female in winter plumage was at Hamilton Reservoir, Larimer County on 13 November 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 8-88-7. Two females in winter plumage were at Hamilton Reservoir, Larimer County on 13 November 1987 and three females and one male were there on 19 November 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 8-88-30. Two adult females were at La Jara Reservoir, west of Capulin, Conejos County on 27 October 1988 (John Rawinski). There are very few scoter records from the San Luis Valley.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) 10-88-3. A pair were reported from Barr Lake, Adams County from December 1986 until April 1987 (Eric Gordon). The nest was then abandoned and the breeding cycle was not completed. The Bald Eagles nesting at Barr Lake have been successful in subsequent years.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) 21-88-8. One in winter plumage was at Jackson Reservoir, Morgan County on 14 September 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) 23-88-32. One in first winter plumage was at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on 13 November 1988 (Peter Gent).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 23-88-5. One in first winter plumage was at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on 25 November 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 23-88-20. One in first winter plumage was at Walden Pond and Teller Lake #5 on 12 March 1988 (Peter Gent).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 23-88-34. One in second summer plumage was at Neesopah Reservoir, Kiowa County on 3 September 1988 (Scott Seltman).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) 23-88-9. One immature in winter plumage was at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on 25 November 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) 23-88-24. One in breeding plumage was at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County on 19 June 1988 (Peter Gent).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) 29-88-19. One female in breeding plumage was killed near Montrose, Montrose County on 20 June 1987 (Mark Janos). This bird is specimen #39386 at the Denver Museum of

Natural History, see the article by Webb and Reddall (1989).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) 34-88-21. One in breeding plumage was at the west end of the Cimarron River in Baca County on 29 May 1988 (Peter Gent).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) 34-88-36. One adult was at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County on 21 August 1988 (Jerry Cairo).

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) 34-88-22. One in breeding plumage was at Hale Ponds, near Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County on 12 June 1988 (Peter Gent).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) 42-88-37. One in basic plumage was in Holly, Prowers County on 2 September 1988 (Diane and Scott Seltman).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) 42-88-38. One male stayed at the Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge, south of Walden, Jackson County from 15 June 1988 until at least 11 July 1988 (William Howe).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) 44-88-4. One male was in southwest Denver, Denver County on 9 and 10 November 1987 (Betty and Harold Oliver).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) 52-88-13. One female was at Riverside Reservoir, Weld County on 6 September 1987 (Jerry Cairo).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) 52-88-39. One immature male was at Holly, Prowers County on 2 September 1988 (Diane and Scott Seltman).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) 55-28-23. A pair in breeding plumage was on Mesa de Maya, near Kim, Las Animas County on 30 May 1988. This pair was seen by 34 people who were on the CFO field trip following the annual convention held in Springfield and Baca County (Peter Gent).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) 56-88-40. One in adult plumage was at Red Lion Wildlife Area, near Crook, Logan County on 21 August 1988 (Jerry Cairo).

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) 54-88-41. One male in breeding plumage was at Tamarack Ranch near Crook, Logan County on 6 June 1988 (William Howe).

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) 54-88-42. One male in breeding plumage was just east of Platteville, Weld County from 12 June to 6 July 1988 (William Howe).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) 54-88-2. At least 5 adults and 4 juveniles were seen in Salida, Chaffee County between 19 April and 14 July 1987 (Ruby Ebright).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) 54-88-1. A pair was first seen at Gypsum Ponds State Wildlife Area, Eagle County on 29 May 1987. They later nested and fledged 2 young (Jack Merchant).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) 56-88-14. One male was seen in Lamar, Prowers County on 30 October 1986 (Jennifer Slater). This is very far onto the plains for a record of this species.

Part 4. "B" and "C" Designation Records.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) 1-88-26. One in winter plumage was reported at Prewitt Reservoir, Logan County on 14 November 1988. Several members thought the description lacked essential details that could not be seen at a distance of 200-300 yards.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) 5-88-10. One was found dead south of Yuma, Yuma County on 20 November 1987. The report did not contain a description and no further information about the specimen was received by the Records Committee.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 8-88-15. A pair was reported near Walden, Jackson County on 27 June 1987. The report said, "The male and female were easily identified," and most committee members thought that this was inadequate.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) 12-88-31. One was reported near La Veta Pass, Costilla County on 27 April 1988. Most committee members thought that this brief report did not eliminate other possible raptor species adequately.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) 28-88-12. An adult was reported from Rollinsville, Gilpin County on 18 January 1988. The observers had no binoculars with them and several members thought that Saw-whet Owl was not adequately eliminated.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) 33-88-35. An adult female was reported near Westcliffe, Custer County on 6 August 1988. Some members thought this report did not adequately eliminate juvenile Red-naped Sapsucker despite its length and amount of detail.

Some of these B and C records reveal potential pitfalls of the Records Committee system. The Tricolored Heron was a specimen, so the reporter did not include a written description. Thus the committee voted not to accept the record. However, the specimen is now in the Denver Museum of Natural History (#39487) and is described in Webb and Reddall (1989). Similarly, the Bufflehead report was not accepted because it contained no real description, but subsequently it has been proven to be true. Buffleheads do breed in small numbers on the east slope of the Park Range, Jackson County; see Andrews and Righter (1992). Thus, even if identification of species is relatively straightforward, an adequate written description is required in order for the committee to make a reasoned decision. This also illustrates that most of the B and C designation records are put in these categories because the report is inadequate and not because the species in question was not observed.

We would like to conclude by thanking everyone who submitted the reports discussed in this article, and to everyone who has submitted reports to the CFO Records Committee since then. We realize that a strong Records

Committee depends entirely on broad support from the Colorado birdwatching community, in the form of submitted records. We strongly encourage birders who have not yet submitted reports to the Records Committee to do so in the future. While we have historically solicited records on standard rare bird forms, we also encourage complete reports done in a more personal narrative style.

Literature Cited:

Andrews R. and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds - A Reference to Their Distribution and Habitat. Denver Museum of Natural History.
 Nelson, D. 1992. The C.F.O. Records Committee Report For 1990. C.F.O. Journal 26(3): 91-97.
 Webb, B., and J. Reddall. 1989. Recent State Record Specimens of Birds at the Denver Museum of Natural History. C.F.O. Journal 23(4): 121-127.

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Sept. 21 10:28AM	Mary Laughren	
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