

THE C.F.O. RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1991

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This report reviews records received by the Committee for the year 1991.

The members who voted on these records include Coen Dexter (Grand Junction), Peter Gent (Boulder), Joe Himmel (Greeley), Bill Howe (Laurel, MD), Mark Janos (Pueblo), Dick Schottler (Golden), David Silverman (Rye), and Van Truan (Pueblo).

The official bird list for the state of Colorado through December 31, 1991 stands at 445 species.

**Part 1. Species Added to The C.F.O. State List.**

No new species were added to the state list in 1991; see below for reports now being circulated to experts outside the region.

**Part 2. Reported Species Not Added to the State List.**

**A. Change in the recognized status of a species reported in Colorado.**

**Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*). The issue of countability of birds from the Gray's Lake experimental flock was discussed by the committee. The committee has decided to delete sightings of birds from the "Gray's Lake Flock" from the official state list and retain all historical records made in 1973 and earlier.

The American Birding Association, in the October 1992 Birding, states that the foster chick experiment "has been declared a failure by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which plans to recapture all survivors for use in captive breeding and future introduction programs." The Whooping Crane numbers in this flock are currently down to 6, and there is no evidence that any Whooping Crane from that flock ever recognized another white crane as anything other than "just another crane." So far, Arizona and New Mexico have already deleted the bird from their official state lists.

Two recent eastern plains records, at Hudson and Severance in 1985, were banded birds originating from the Gray's Lake flock. The last accepted report of what may have been birds migrating south from Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada was on November 3, 1973 near Greeley (ORC File # 16-73-172).

It is possible that migrants from Canada will again pass through, due

to increases in the Canada flock, or exceptional weather forcing them west from their usual route. Be prepared, and note leg bands, colors and positions.

B. Reports that are being recirculated to experts outside the region. Status of these species will be evaluated by the new Records Committee.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) 31-91-42. A male at a feeder in Rye, Pueblo County, on 7/13/91 was suggestive but did not rule out a non-trilling male Broad-tailed to one reviewer. The text referred to a forked tail, which was not evident in a photograph.

**Buff-breasted Flycatcher** (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) 34-91-47. It was seen and heard on 5/19/91 at Hanna Ranch State Wildlife Area, El Paso County, and reports were submitted by three capable observers.

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila melanura*) 45-91-53. A family group seen by many observers near Cameo, Mesa County, in July 1991 was felt by most committee members to be well described. Photographs and descriptions were received from several parties. One member felt that the description of the head pattern of the male did not eliminate Blue-gray Gnatcatcher even though the tail pattern, wing pattern, voice and habitat all suggested Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.

C. Reported species not added to the state list.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) 8-91-14. An adult was photographed at a pond on the Pawnee National Grassland, Weld County, on 7/11/91. The photograph confirmed the identity. Half the committee members felt that the origin of the bird was questionable. It is a species not known for long-distance vagrancy. The status of this bird could change if a pattern of vagrancy is established regionally for this species.

**Common Black-Hawk** (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) 10-91-22. A reported Common Black-Hawk near Durango, La Plata County on 3/19/91 was described too briefly to qualify as a first state record.

**Common Black-Hawk** (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) 10-91-23. An adult was reported at Carrizo Mountain, Las Animas/Baca County on 6/15/91. This bird was well described, and came close to being accepted. One voter was troubled with a description of the tail as appearing "fairly long . . . head large and prominent." Those not accepting the report felt that the bird still could have been a Common Black-Hawk.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) 31-91-43. A hummingbird, banded near Steamboat Springs, Routt County, on 6/26/91 was tentatively identified as a male Ruby-throated due mainly to feather measurements. The wing length (43 mm) did not overlap measurements of Broad-tailed (45-52 mm) or Ruby-throated (37-40 mm), and no mention was

made of whether the tail was forked. Photographs weren't taken.

Part 3. Category A Records (Submitted Documentation Supports the Recorded Description).

**Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*) 1-91-1. One adult was seen and photographed at Vega Lake, near Collbran, Mesa County between 10/20 and 10/26/91. (Coen Dexter).

**Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*) 1-91-2. One bird in first winter immature plumage was seen by many observers between 12/2 and 12/6/91 at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas County (Joey Kellner).

**Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*) 1-91-3. One in winter plumage was seen by many observers between 12/2 and 12/6/91 at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas County (Joey Kellner).

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-91-4. An immature was photographed atop the Limon McDonald's Restaurant, Lincoln County on 5/9/91 (Bob Davis, photographed by Shelley Hendrix).

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-91-5. An adult was seen and photographed at Union Reservoir, Weld County, on 6/3/91 (Report and photos by Mark Nikas).

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-91-6. One adult was found on 6/23/91 at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson/Douglas Counties on 6/23 - 6/27/91. By 6/26, a second adult was seen with the first. One of the birds was probably the same individual that first appeared at Union Reservoir three weeks earlier (Dick Schottler, Mark Janos, Peter Gent).

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-91-7. One adult was seen and photographed at Antero Reservoir, Park County, from 7/1 - 7/10/91. It was probably one that had been at Chatfield (Report and photos Laurens Halsey, report by Chuck Loeffler).

**Little Blue Heron** (*Egretta caerulea*) 5-91-8. One adult was seen and sketched at Soda Lake, Jefferson County, on 9/14/91 (Margaret and Bill Elliot).

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) 5-91-11. One immature was seen and photographed at Hidden Lake, Adams County between 8/16 and 8/21/91 (Photographed by Duane Nelson, reports by D. Nelson and Phil Hayes).

**Reddish Egret** (*Egretta rufescens*) 5-91-9. One adult, Colorado's first since 1875 was found at Adobe Creek Reservoir, Kiowa County, on 5/27 - 5/28/91 and was seen by many observers (Photographed by Karl Overman, reports by Mark Janos, Peter Gent, Dick Schottler, Dan Bridges).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax violaceus*) 5-91-12. An adult was seen and photographed at Tamarack Ranch near Crook, Logan County on 6/17/89 (Mark Nikas).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax violaceus*) 5-91-13. An adult was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, on 7/28/91 (Mark Janos).

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) 8-91-17. One adult male was seen on 3/25/91 at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande County (Mark Nikas).

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) 8-91-18. Two adult males were seen by many observers on Sloan Lake, Denver County on October 29, 1991 (Dick Schottler).

**Oldsquaw** (*Clangula hyemalis*) 8-91-19. A female was seen and sketched at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas County on 11/7/91 (Joey Kellner).

**Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 8-91-20. A female was photographed at Prospect Pond, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Jefferson County, on 11/9/91 (Joey Kellner).

**Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*) 8-91-21. An adult female was seen at Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 10/31/91 (Dave Silverman).

**Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*) 13-91-24. One female was seen by a party of nine at Hoy Mountain, near Dinosaur National Monument on 9/28/91. It was photographed, and a photo appeared in *American Birds*, Spring 1992, p. 128 (Photo, Duane Nelson, reports by Dan Bridges, Peter Gent).

**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) 17-91-26. One was seen and heard by many between 5/18 and 5/27/91 at Bent's Old Fort, Otero County (Photographs and report by Dan Bridge, reports by Hugh Kingery, Peter Gent, Mark Janos).

**Lesser Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) 18-91-27. One was seen at Orchard Mesa, Mesa County, on 11/12/91. The photographs were suggestive of *P. d. fulva* (Photo, Coen Dexter, reports by C. Dexter and Rich Levad).

**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*) 19-91-29. Two adults in breeding plumage were seen and heard on 7/24/91 at Nee Noshe Reservoir, Kiowa County (Duane Nelson).

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) 22-91-30. One light phase adult was seen at Barr Lake, Adams County, between 6/29 and 7/4/91 (Linda Hedl and Bill Fink).

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) 22-91-31. One dark morph in juvenile plumage was seen between October 30th and November 10th at Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County (Bob Dickson, Mark Janos, Peter Gent).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) 23-91-34. A first-winter bird was seen at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson/Douglas Counties, on 12/14/91 (Jack Reddall and Joey Kellner).

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*) 23-91-35. A first-winter bird was seen at the Clifton Oxidation Ponds, Mesa County, on 11/2/91 (Coen Dexter).

**Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) 23-91-36. A first winter bird was seen and photographed at Connected Lakes, Mesa County, on 11/16/91 (Coen Dexter).

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) 23-91-37. An adult in alternate (breeding) plumage was photographed at Adobe Creek Reservoir, Bent County, on 6/12/91 (Duane Nelson).

**Spotted Owl** (*Strix occidentalis*) 28-91-38. One was seen and heard at Mesa Verde National Park on 4/5/91 (Dan Bridges).

**Lesser Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) 29-91-39. Two (one male and one female) were seen on 5/24/91 at the Clifton Oxidation Ponds, Mesa County (Vic Zerbi and Peter Gent).

**Blue-throated Hummingbird** (*Lampornis clemenciae*) 31-91-40. A female was seen about 5 miles southeast of Durango in La Plata County at a feeder by many observers on 9/1/91 (Mark Janos).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) 33-91-44. An immature male was well described at Mancos, Montezuma County on 1/17/91 (Alan Versaw).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) 33-91-45. An immature was in Greeley, Weld County, on 12/12/89. This species should no longer be considered rare in winter in eastern Colorado (Mark Nikas).

**Red-naped Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) 33-91-46. A very rare winter report, from the Redlands area near Grand Junction in Mesa County on 12/27/91 (Alan Versaw).

**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*) 34-91-48. An adult was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, on 3/31/91 (Toni Brevillier).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) 34-91-50. One was at Chatfield State Park, Douglas County, on 5/11/91 (Hugh Kingery).

**Great-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus crinitus*) 34-91-51. One was seen near Jefferson, Park County, on 10/13/91 (Kathy Hawkins).

**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) 42-91-52. One was at Meadowbrook, Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 10/16 and 10/17/91 (Bob Dickson, Mark Janos).

**Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) 46-91-54. Two were seen 7 miles east/southeast of Julesberg between 10/12 and 10/19/91 (Dan Bridges, Peter Gent, Mark Janos).

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) 51-91-55. One was found dead at Barr Lake State Park, Adams County on about 11/1/91 by Joe Roller. It was photographed by Duane Nelson, and prepared as specimen 39956 at the DMNH.

**Gray Vireo** (*Vireo vicinior*) 51-91-56. One was seen and heard at Badito, Huerfano County, on 7/28/91. Diligent field work is revealing small numbers of this species in southeast Colorado (Dave Silverman).

**Blue-Winged Warbler** (*Vermivora pinus*) 52-91-57. One singing male was seen at Castlewood Canyon, Douglas County, on 6/11/91 (Mark Janos).

**Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) 52-91-58. A male was seen on 5/20/91 at Hannah Ranch SWA, El Paso County (Mark Janos).

**Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) 52-91-59. A male was seen and heard at the Bear Creek Nature Center in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, on 6/6/91 (Toni Brevillier).

**Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) 52-91-60. An adult female was seen between 8/20 and 8/26/91 at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Jefferson

County, (Duane Nelson and Bob Spencer).

**Northern Parula** (*Parula americana*) 52-91-61. A female was seen near Whitewater, Mesa County, on 9/1/91 (Rich Levad).

**Magnolia Warbler** (*Dendroica magnolia*) 52-91-62. A male was seen by Jim and Barbara Fay between 7/8 and 7/12/91 at Boyd Lake State Park, Larimer County (Jim and Barbara Fay).

**Cape May Warbler** (*Dendroica tigrina*) 52-91-63. A drab immature was seen and photographed at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, on 11/25 and 11/26 91 (Photo and report by Ann Higgins, reports by Toni Brevillier, Robert Joyce and George Maentz).

**Hermit Warbler** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) 52-91-64. An adult male was seen in Mineral Palace Park, Pueblo, Pueblo County, on 4/30/91 (Mark Janos).

**Hermit Warbler** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) 52-91-65. An adult male was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, on 5/4/91 (Toni Brevillier).

**Hermit Warbler** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) 52-91-66. An adult female was seen in a shelterbelt 15 miles northwest of Burlington, Kit Carson County, on 5/6/91 (Hugh Kingery).

**Prairie Warbler** (*Dendroica discolor*) 52-91-68. An adult male was seen on 9/25/91 in the Clifton Marsh Wildlife Area, Mesa County, for a very rare west slope record (Coen Dexter).

**Palm Warbler** (*Dendroica palmarum*) 52-91-69. One in basic plumage was seen on 10/3/90 at the Plum Creek area in Chatfield State Park, Douglas County (Hugh Kingery).

**Bay-breasted Warbler** (*Dendroica castanea*) 52-91-70. An adult male was seen by many observers at Hannah Ranch, El Paso County, on 5/20/91 (Mark Janos).

**Worm-eating Warbler** (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) 52-91-72. One was seen in the grove behind Lamar Community College, Prowers County, on 5/15/91 (Duane Nelson).

**Kentucky Warbler** (*Oporornis formosus*) 52-91-74. One male was seen on 4/18 and 4/20/91 in the Olive Marsh, Pueblo County (Mark Janos).

**Kentucky Warbler** (*Oporornis formosus*) 52-91-75. An adult was seen in the Lake Henry grove, Crowley County, on 5/9/91 (Dan Bridges).

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) 56-91-76. A male was seen on 5/12/91 at the Wagon Wheel Campground at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County (Joe Tenbrink).

**Field Sparrow** (*Spizella pusilla*) 56-91-77. One adult was seen below the dam of Lake Beckwith, Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 10/20/91 (David Silverman).

**Leconte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) 56-91-84. Six or more were seen at the marsh on the west side of John Martin Reservoir, Bent County, on 11/9/91. This is the same location where several wintered in 1990-1991 (Dan Bridges).

**Rusty Blackbird** (*Euphagus carolinus*) 56-91-80. A female was seen at

Clifton, Mesa County, on 10/31/91 (Coen Dexter).

**Purple Finch** (*Carpodacus purpureus*) 56-91-83. A male was seen at Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 3/3/91 (David Silverman).

**Part 4. Category B and C Records.** (Submitted documentation probably indicates a misidentification or is too brief or incomplete to support the stated identification).

**Reddish Egret** (*Egretta rufescens*) 5-91-10. A split vote. One adult was reported at Hart's Basin, Delta County on 8-11-91. The distance from observer to bird was too far to give the detail needed according to some reviewers.

**Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) 8-91-15. A split vote. A swan was seen on 4/21/91 in Bent County. Some felt that the description was too brief.

**American Black Duck** (*Anas rubripes*) 8-91-16. Two May birds at Lake George, El Paso County, were described too briefly, and the report failed to describe the speculum or rule out hybrids.

**Greater Prairie Chicken** (*Tympanuchus cupido*) 13-91-25. The observation period was too short and the vehicle speed too great to positively identify eight seen in flight over I-76 in Morgan County on 11/24/91.

**Lesser Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) 18-91-28. A report of three at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, on 9/14/91 was thought to be too brief by some members.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) 23-91-32. A juvenile was seen at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County, on 5/12/91. A split vote; some voters felt the report was too brief.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) 23-91-33. A report of a winter adult at Pueblo Reservoir on 11/14/91 was felt not to completely eliminate similar species.

**Blue-throated Hummingbird** (*Lampornis clemenciae*) 31-91-41. A female near San Isabel, Custer County on 8/2/91 received a split vote, some voters feeling that female Magnificent was not ruled out.

**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*) 34-91-49. A November 15th record in Louisville, Boulder County, was feeding on sunflower seeds, and was probably a junco.

**Blackburnian Warbler** (*Dendroica fusca*) 52-91-67. A description of a male seen on 5/13/91 near Ft. Morgan, Morgan County, was felt by some to be too brief.

**Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*) 52-90-71. A bird on the north shore of Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, on 4/20/91 was described too briefly to be accepted.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** (*Seiurus motacilla*) 52-91-73. A report, sent in as "Possible Louisiana Waterthrush" was suggestive, but lacked a description of flank color.

**Baird's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus bairdii*) 56-91-78. A suggestive look at one, near Walsh in Baca County, on 4/16/91. The vote was divided, with some feeling that the face was not described nor all similar species eliminated.

**Baird's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus bairdii*) 56-91-79. One reported on 9/14/91 in Clifton, Mesa County, was narrowly voted down, because of concern with habitat and description of face.

**Rusty Blackbird** (*Euphagus carolinus*) 56-91-81. A close vote, from Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, on 12/7/91. A minority felt that other blackbirds were not eliminated.

**Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*) 54-91-82. One was reported from Denver, Denver County, on 6/2/91. The report was missing some key field marks.



Creede Boreal Owl subadult plumage, September 2, 1992.  
Photo by Robin Sell.