

Lippincott (CL), Bill Lisowsky (WPL), Stephen Long (SLo), Joe Mammoser (JM), many observers (mob), Kathy Martin (KMa), Steve Martin (Sma), Bill Maynard (BM), Jack Merchant (JMe), Brandon Percival (BKP), Pam Piombro (PP), Myron Plooster (MPI), Suzi Plooster (SPI), Jerry Poe (JPo), Kim Potter (KP), David Quesenberry (DQ), Scott Rashid (SRa), John Rawinski (JRw), Lisa Rawinski (LRw), Robert Righter (BRi), Joe Rigli (JRi), Julie Roederer (JR), Scott Roederer (SR), Audrey Ryder (ATR), Ron Ryder (RAR), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Karleen Schofield (KS), Wes Sears (WSe), Aaron Sell (ASe), David Silverman (DS), Clif Smith (CS), David Smith (DSm), Susan Soloyanis (SS), Janeal Thompson (JT), John Vanderpoole (JV), Alan Versaw (AV), Susan Ward (SW), Duane Weber (DWb), Chris Wood (CW), Mark Yaeger (MY). Seventy-nine observers cited (including "mob").

#### LITERATURE CITED

Andrews, R., and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.



#### REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1995 RECORDS

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This report covers 106 records of 68 species and one hybrid submitted by 56 observers and evaluated by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee (hereafter the RC or the committee). Fifteen of the reports were accompanied by photographs and 11 by sketches or field drawings. All 106 records received definitive votes by the RC through circulation, re-circulation, or RC meeting discussions. Eighty-eight were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 83%. The majority of records are for birds observed in 1995. Per RC bylaws, all accepted records received 7-0 or 6-1 votes either on the initial circulation or the re-circulation. Each record discussed at an RC meeting was accepted if there was no more than one vote to reject. All records not accepted received less than four votes to accept (3-4, 2-5, 1-6, or 0-7) on either initial circulation or re-circulation.

No species were added or deleted from the Colorado state list as a result of this report. The Colorado state list stands at 456 species after the addition of Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus*

*galbula*) due to splits described in the 40th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (Janos 1996). Highlights from 1995 include one Brown Pelican, three Glossy Ibises, one Harris' Hawk, one Ancient Murrelet, one Alder Flycatcher and one Swainson's Warbler. Potential first state records of Mandarin Duck and California Quail were not accepted. A possible Western Gull (and also a potential first state record) was instead accepted as a Great Black-backed Gull.

**Committee News:** New bylaws for the committee were accepted by the Colorado Field Ornithologists (hereafter CFO) Board in 1995 (Dickson et al. 1995). This report reflects work performed by the RC operating within these bylaws. The CFO and the RC are in discussion with the Denver Museum of Natural History in an effort to computerize the catalogue of bird records that is housed there.

Records of interest currently under review by the RC for 1996 include Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Marbled Murrelet, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Alder Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher (1986), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (1991), Buff-breasted Flycatcher (1991), Black-capped Vireo, Hermit Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Pyrrhuloxia.

The committee's membership at the close of the 1996 was: Bob Dickson, Peter Gent, Mark Janos (Chair), Bill Lisowsky, Bob Righter, Dick Schottler, and Vic Zerbi. With the endorsement of the RC, Joey Kellner was appointed by the CFO Board at the end of 1996 to fill Bob Dickson's expired term. Joey will serve from 1997-1999.

**Committee Functions:** All records reviewed by the RC are archived at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. All written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum and are available for public review. The committee solicits documentation on all species on its review list, on unusual occurrences by date or location, and on species unrecorded in Colorado. Those species annotated as "R" (rare) or "U" (unusual) in the March 1995 "Field Checklist of Colorado Birds" constitute the Colorado state review list (Colorado Field Ornithologists 1995). Please send documentation to either: Mark Janos, CFORC Chair, 10 Sedum Ct., Pueblo, CO 81001; or to the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collection, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205-5798.

**Report Format:** Species are listed in A.O.U. taxonomic order. Records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is location, county, date(s) of occurrence and the initials of observers who submitted reports. If known, the initials of reporting observers who discovered the bird(s) are underlined. The date span follows the submitted record date(s). Records are sight records unless otherwise noted. An asterisk (\*) prior to a species' name indicates that currently it is not on the RC's review list. For species with fifteen or fewer Colorado records, the number in parentheses that follows the species' name is the number of records accepted by the RC through this reporting period.

**Abbreviations Used in the Report:** AHY (at least first year); Ave. (Avenue); Co. and Cos. (County and Counties); CBC (Audubon Christmas Bird Count); CP (City Park); L. (Lake); DFO (Denver Field Ornithologists); NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); R. (River); Rd. (Road); Res. (Reservoir); SP (State Park); sp. (species); SWA (State Wildlife Area).

#### PART I: RECORDS ACCEPTED

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*) (10). A juvenile bird was at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) 17 Dec 1994 - 11 May 1995 (MJ, BP; sketch; 1-95-3). This bird was joined by a second juvenile at the same location, 8 Jan - 11 May 1995 (MJ, BP; sketch; 1-95-2).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*). A basic-plumaged bird was at Chatfield Res. (Douglas and Jefferson Cos.) 16 Dec 1995 (HK; field drawing; 2-95-4). A second, different, basic-plumaged adult was at McClellan Res. (Arapahoe Co.) 20 Dec 1995 (TL; 2-95-5).

**BROWN PELICAN** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (8). An immature bird was observed by many at Sweitzer L. (Delta Co.) 9 Jul - 2 Oct 1995 (CD, NG, RGu, SJ; photos; 3-95-6).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Egretta caerulea*). An immature bird was found at L. Holbrook (Otero Co.) 29 Apr - May 8, 1995 (MJ, BP; 5-95-8).

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (7). There were an amazing three separate accepted records for this species in 1995, first documented in the state on 26 Mar 1986. A single adult in alternate plumage, found by JRo, was at L. Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 28 Apr 1995 (MJ; 7-95-9). Two adults in alternate plumage were picked out from a small flock of *Plegadis* sp. in a flooded field on 7 May 1995 about 5 miles east of Las Animas along Highway 50 in Bent Co. (MJ; 7-95-10). Finally, a single, alternate-plumaged adult was located

along Buckley Rd., one mile north of E. 120th Ave. in Adams Co., 12-14 May 1995 (KS; 7-95-11).

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*) (14). Five records of this species were evaluated. Three were accepted. The identification of this species is a problem for field observers and evaluation of written and photographic records remains problematic for RC members. For a recent treatment of Trumpeter and Tundra Swan identification, see Patten and Heindel (1994). Three adults were well described from Valmont Res. (Boulder Co.) on 7 Jan 1995 (DS; 8-95-12). A flock of five adults and three immatures was documented from Platte Canyon Res. (Douglas Co.) 16 Dec 1995 (HK; field sketches; 8-95-15). An adult, was discovered by JK and CW on the Rocky Ford CBC at L. Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 30 Dec 1995 (MJ; 8-96-16).

**BRANT** (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) (11). One adult was at Angel L. near Severance (Weld Co.) on 8 Feb 1995 (JB; 8-95-17).

**BLACK SCOTER** (*Melanitta nigra*). There were two accepted records. The first bird was a female on L. Meredith (Crowley Co.) on 3 Dec 1995 (MJ; 8-95-19). The second record was an immature male at the fish ponds below the Colorado State Fish Hatchery near Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) on 11 Dec 1995 (MJ; 8-95-20).

**HARRIS' HAWK** (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) (3). The recent intrusion of this southern and southwestern species into Colorado continues. This beautiful adult bird was well seen about ½ mile west of Manzanola (Otero Co.) by two observers on 14 Oct 1995 (MJ; field sketches; 10-95-21). Although it was subsequently seen by other observers, no additional documentation was received by the RC.

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*) (11). An adult gray phase bird was seen by many in January 1995. Unfortunately only one observer submitted a record. It was seen on 7 Jan 1995 ranging widely in an area about one-two miles west of Union Res. and Jim Hamm Park (Boulder Co.) (MJ; 12-95-106). An immature gray phase bird ("brown morph") was seen south of Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 8 Dec 1995 (JH, BL; 12-95-22).

**BLACK RAIL** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (4). A series of four occurrences of this species at the west end of John Martin Res. marsh in 1995 is here treated as a single "record" by the committee. From 1-16 birds were seen or heard per report. There was a single visual description. The report dates ranged 12 May - 16 Jul 1995 and all were from the area of Bent's Old Fort on the west to marshes just west of the intersection of Bent Co. Rds. JJ and 19 on the east (Bent and Otero Cos.) (JM, BP; 17-95-25).

**WHOOPIING CRANE** (*Grus americana*). There was one record. It consisted of four written reports received for this widely observed and well-seen individual. It is the first RC-accepted record from eastern Colorado since 1973. The birds seen widely in western and central Colorado valleys through the 1980s and 1990s are part of the Idaho/New Mexico foster flock that never became established in the wild. This record is of an unbanded immature bird. Since there are no recent introductions back into the transplanted flock and all remaining foster birds are adults, this individual is a wild bird. This bird lingered 10-26 Mar 1995 wandering more or less widely in southeastern Colorado (and apparently neighboring Kansas). Most observations were from and around Thurston Res., north of Lamar, in Prowers Co. (PG, MJ, BP, JS; 16-95-26).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*). The RC voted unanimously to accept these two records: an alternate-plumaged adult at L. Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 25 May 1995 (AS; 19-95-28); and a multiple-observer, but single-reporter, record of a basic-plumaged adult bird at Hannah Ranch SWA (El Paso Co.) on 9 Sep 1995 (MJ; 19-95-29).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** (*Tryngites subruficollis*). A juvenile was observed at the southwest corner of Jumbo Res. (Logan Co.) on 1 Sep 1995 (JM; 19-95-31). Two juveniles were observed on 5 Sep 1995 at Jackson Res. (Morgan Co.) (TL; photo; 19-95-32).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). This bird was first seen on a CFO field trip. It was a light phase sub-adult at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) 9-10 Sep 1995 (MJ; 22-95-34).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (6). The vote stood at 5-2 after re-circulation; it was unanimously accepted after additional documentation (including photographs) was submitted. This was an adult at Barr L. (Adams Co.) on 10-14 Sep 1995 (TL; BR; photos; 22-95-35).

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Larus atricilla*). The first record is of a striking, alternate-plumaged bird at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 1 May 1995 (MJ, BP; 23-95-36). The second accepted record for 1995 is of a first-summer bird at Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 24 May 1995 (AS; 23-95-105). The third accepted record for 1995 is of a juvenile at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) 31 Aug - 2 Sep 1995 (JRe; 23-95-37).

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*) (11). Photographic slides accompanied the first report. This accepted record was of a juvenile at Clifton (Mesa Co.) 12-14 Sep 1995 (RL; photos; 23-95-38). A second bird, also a juvenile, was near Longmont at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 24 Sep 1995 (JM; 23-95-39).

**MEW GULL** (*Larus canus*) (11). A winter-plumaged adult wintered at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) 19 Nov 1994 - 1 Jan 1995 (MJ; 23-95-40). This is not a new record, but it extends the date of this individual's occurrence into 1995. It was submitted in 1994, accessioned as number 23-94-32, and accepted. It was the eleventh accepted record at that time.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*) (13). A breeding-plumaged adult was in the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) colony at Adobe Creek Res., Bent and Kiowa Cos., on 24 May 1994 (DN; 23-95-41).

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL** (*Larus glaucescens*) (6). The vote stood at 4-3 after re-circulation; it was accepted with only one vote to reject at the RC meeting. This was an adult at Mosca (Alamosa Co.) 3 March 1995 (JR; sketches; 23-95-43).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*) (12). The first record in 1995 is an adult at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 8-9 Mar 1995 (BPr; 23-95-46). The second record in 1995 is the infamous adult, winter-plumaged bird at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) 17 Sep - 25 Oct 1995. Originally identified and "confirmed" as the first Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*) in Colorado, the identity began to be questioned in the weeks subsequent to discovery. Opinion swung over to re-identification as a Great Black-backed Gull after out-of-state birders viewed this bird. A full discussion of pertinent field marks will not be made here, but all observed characters were consistent with a female Great Black-backed Gull. While most RC members initially felt that the bird was too small, light-mantled, and dark-eyed to be a Great Black-backed Gull, the bird was accepted as such upon much discussion, input (thanks to Shawneen Finnegan and Paul Lehman), and research. The dark-appearing iris (amber-pale to dusky-pale, depending on light and angle) caused many initially to rule out Great Black-backed Gull, however this color is acceptable for this species. The bird was accepted as a Great Black-backed Gull (SF, MJ, PL, BPr, BR; field sketches; 23-95-44). This bird may be the famous Pueblo Res. Great Black-backed Gull, which only appeared after the Cherry Creek bird disappeared and which also had a dusky iris. This record shows the difficulty inland birders have with separating rare species from look-alikes that are far from their normal ranges and haunts. Such occurrences take place without the benefit of comparison species and in front of observers without regular and recent experience with the species under question. Such situations also occur for Colorado birders when jaegers are observed. The third 1995 record is the Pueblo Res. bird, which was back for the fourth consecutive year 18 Nov - 31 Dec 1995 (MJ; 23-95-45), this time as an adult (Pueblo Co.). Observers followed the plumage sequence of this bird over four winters as it progressed from first winter through adult winter plumages.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*). Two first-year birds at Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 25 Nov 1995. Sightings of more than one of these striking birds on a single lake in Colorado is very unusual (MJ; 23-95-47).

**ANCIENT MURRELET** (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) (3). This occurrence caused quite a stir in the Colorado birding community. Unfortunately a "one-day wonder," the bird could not be located on subsequent days. However, quite a few birders did observe this individual on the single day that it was present. The bird was in near-winter plumage and was found by JK at Chatfield Res. (Douglas and Jefferson Cos.) on 5 Dec 1995 (JK; sketch; 24-95-48).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (17). There were four records of this species in 1994-1995. An adult was discovered in residential Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 19 Jun 1994 (AB; photos; 25-95-51). Originally, this record was accessioned as number 25-94-38 and circulated in the 1994 records. It was not accepted in 1994, but it was resubmitted with photographs in 1995 and accepted. A singing bird was seen briefly in a residential backyard in Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 11 May 1995 (BD; 25-95-49). A singing bird was found at the Central Plains Experimental Range near Nunn (Weld Co.) on 17 Jun 1995 (GK; 25-95-50). The fourth bird was in residential Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) 4-5 Nov 1995 (MJ, DSi; 25-95-52). The eruption of this species into Colorado in 1994-1996 may be associated with drought conditions in Texas and the southwest.

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) (8). There were three submitted and accepted records in Colorado in 1995. An adult female was observed in the riparian area below Two Buttes Res. dam (Baca Co.) on 19 May 1995 (JM; 29-95-53). Another adult female was observed in the north, along the Front Range, near the Poudre R. on the east side of Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 1 Jun 1995 (JM; 29-95-54). Finally, an adult male was seen near Two Buttes SWA along Co. Rd. VV in Baca Co. on 25 Jul 1995 (JRe; 29-95-55). Several of the recent Colorado records are from the Two Buttes Res. area.

**BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Lampornis clemenciae*) (10). The vote stood at 4-3 after re-circulation and was accepted unanimously at the RC meeting. The record was of an adult male at Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat Co.) on 20 Jul 1995 (HD; 31-95-56).

**ACORN WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) (2). An adult was present at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch near Loveland (Larimer Co.) 27 Sep - 1 Oct 1995 (CH; photos; 33-95-57).

\***RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*). This record documents an occurrence of this species well out on the southeastern plains of Colorado — a male on 10 Apr 1995 in Walsh (Baca Co.) (JT; 33-95-58).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus virens*). A singing bird was at Rocky Ford SWA (Otero Co.) on 21 May 1995 (MJ; 34-95-59).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax alnorum*) (9). The first report was submitted with four “in hand” photographs. It was a mist-netted individual that also was observed calling in the field. The photographs, in-hand measurements, and call notes eliminated other *Empidonax* sp. The bird was observed at Barr Lake SP (Adams Co.) on 28 May 1995 (TL; photos; 34-95-60). The second record was a sight record of a calling bird. The vote stood at 4-3 after re-circulation and was accepted with only one reject vote at the RC meeting. This bird was at Rocky Ford SWA (Otero Co.) on 4 Jun 1995 (BP; 34-95-61).

**BLACK PHOEBE** (*Sayornis nigricans*) (13). This individual was discovered along the Canon City Riverwalk, MacKenzie Parking Area (Fremont Co.) 14 Oct - 17 Dec 1995. It was well documented (MJ, SM, BP, DP; 34-95-62).

\***EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*). This bird was unusually far north at the wrong season at Box Elder Creek, about five miles west of Rawhide Power Plant on the Rawhide CBC (Larimer Co.). It was seen 31 Dec 1995 (BDi; sketch; 34-95-63).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). A female was well documented from the campground at the northeast corner of Jumbo Res. SWA (Logan Co.) on 20 Jun 1995 (JRe; 34-95-64).

**CAROLINA WREN** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Another Denver urban record — an adult in a Denver backyard (Denver Co.) on 18 Jan 1996 (RG; 42-95-65).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** (*Catharus minimus*). One was at Willow Creek, Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 9 May 1995 (MJ; 44-95-66). Another was about three miles northeast of Ft. Lyon wildlife easement (Bent Co.) at a small wood lot on 18 May 1995 (MJ; 44-95-67). This species seems to be more regular on the eastern fringes of southern Colorado than previously thought. Reporting is complicated by the need for good views and careful documentation. Gray-cheeked Thrush is considered a rare but regular migrant in southwestern Kansas (Cable et al. 1996). Future documentation of this species in Colorado will be complicated by the need to distinguish it from the very similar and recently separated Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*),

which is not expected to occur in Colorado. See McLaren (1995) for a very informative discussion on the field identification of this new species.

**WOOD THRUSH** (*Hylocichla mustelina*). This rarely reported species was apparently present for a week, 8-14 May 1995, at a small wood lot at the intersection of Rds. JJ and 16 near Ft. Lyon (Bent Co.). It was seen on May 8 and 14 but not on intervening days (MJ, BP; 44-95-68).

**PHAINOPEPLA** (*Phainopepla nitens*) (8). This report documents the record of an immature male or female seen 29-30 Sep 1995 at Redlands (Mesa Co.) (CD; photo; 48-95-104).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo griseus*). An adult was in Pueblo CP (Pueblo Co.) 6 May 1995 (MJ; 51-95-72). Another adult was found at the “Frog Pond” in Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 30 Oct 1995 (DSi; 51-95-73).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** (*Vireo flavifrons*). A single adult bird was found in migration at Pueblo CP (Pueblo Co.) on 20 May 1995 (MJ; 51-95-74).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** (*Vireo philadelphicus*). An adult from Valco Ponds below Pueblo Res. along the Arkansas R. (Pueblo Co.) on 7 Sep 1995 was a single-observer record (MJ; 51-95-75).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora pinus*). An alternate-plumaged male was seen along Willow Creek in Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 12 May 1995 (BP; 52-95-76).

**GOLDEN-WINGED X BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *Vermivora pinus*). This hybrid AHY (a bird in at least its second calendar year) female was captured, photographed, and banded on 25 Jul 1995 at the Turkey Creek MAPS Station on the Fort Carson Military Reservation in El Paso Co. (BM; photos; 52-95-77). Opinions submitted by John Confer and Paul Lehman were that the bird could not be called either a “Lawrence’s” or a “Brewster’s” warbler, but was something in between, with more Golden-winged than Blue-winged characteristics.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). A female was observed at Willow Creek in Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 6 May 1995 (BP; 52-95-91). An alternate-plumaged male was observed in the riparian grove at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.) on 28 May 1995 (MJ; 52-95-78).

\***NORTHERN PARULA** (*Parula americana*). A female at Mosca (Alamosa Co.) on 19 May 1995 was a rare San Luis Valley (possibly second) record (JR; 52-95-79).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** (*Dendroica tigrina*). This individual was discovered in the Valco Ponds area below Pueblo Res. dam (Pueblo Co.) and was present for two weeks (15-28 Dec 1995). It was recorded on the Pueblo Res. CBC. This bird was a fall female, at the duller extreme of the range of plumage variability (MJ, TL, BP; 52-95-80). This bird fed and rested along the banks of the Arkansas R. near protected eddies, where it may have subsisted on insects hatching from the water.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** (*Dendroica discolor*) (11). This bird was a dull-plumaged fall female. It was in the Valco Ponds area below Pueblo Res. dam (Pueblo Co.) 3 Nov - 16 Dec 1995 (MJ, BP, DSm; 52-95-82). Originally discovered on 3 Nov by BP, this individual was rediscovered on 13 Dec in time to be recorded on the Pueblo Res. CBC. This is a remarkably late record. This species has not lingered this late into winter before in Colorado.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** (*Dendroica castanea*). This species seems to have become more scarce in Colorado in the 1990s. An alternate-plumaged male was a treat for observers in the riparian grove at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 28 May 1995 (MJ; 52-95-83).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** (*Protonotaria citrea*). This is a record of a male on 10 May 1995 at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) (BP; 52-95-84).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). This record was of a bird seen 3 May 1995 at Fort Lyon wildlife easement (Bent Co.) (BP; 52-95-85).

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) (7). This was a well-described individual on 22 May 1995 in the Valco Ponds area below the dam at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) (PSS; field sketch; 52-95-87).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** (*Oporornis formosus*). This beautiful adult was found by MJ and BP on 5 May 1995 and shown to participants of a DFO field trip on 6 May. It was at Willow Creek, Lamar (Prowers Co.) (MJ, BP; 52-95-88).

**MOURNING WARBLER** (*Oporornis philadelphia*) (10). An adult male was observed briefly in the riparian grove at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 28 May 1995 (MJ; 52-95-89).

**\*HOODED WARBLER** (*Wilsonia citrina*). An adult male at Monte Vista NWR (Rio Grande Co.) was a treat for observers on 3 Jun 1995 (JR; 52-95-90). This is the second San Luis Valley record and the first spring record there (at about 7200 feet).

**CANADA WARBLER** (*Wilsonia canadensis*). The vote stood at 5-2 after re-circulation and was accepted with only one reject vote at the RC meeting. This was a male in alternate plumage at Fort Carson (El Paso Co.) on 28 Aug 1995 (BM; 52-95-92).

**SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*). An unmistakable adult was seen in the riparian area below Two Buttes Res. dam (Baca Co.) on 30 Apr 1995 (BP; 55-95-93).

**PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*) (15). An alternate-plumaged male and female were discovered west of Drake ("Cedar Bend") on 8-10 Jun 1995 in Larimer Co. (MM; 56-95-94). Breeding was not documented. An alternate-plumaged male was observed in Cottonwood Canyon in Baca Co. on 24 Jun 1995 (GK; 56-95-95).

**\*EASTERN TOWHEE** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). This recently split species will probably prove to be an uncommon resident in eastern Colorado. This record is of a male photographed in a yard in Boulder (Boulder Co.) 31 Oct - 5 Nov 1995 (BMi; photos; 56-95-96).

**\*RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Aimophila ruficeps*). Two records of this species were circulated because the locations were unusual. A single bird was in a Boulder back yard (Boulder Co.) 28 Dec 1995 - 27 Jan 1996 (BMi; photos; 56-95-97). A second bird was below the Spring Creek dam near Horsetooth Res. (Larimer Co.) on 2 Jan 1995 (BL, PLi; photos; 56-95-98).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (7). This individual was found during the Rocky Ford CBC. It was well observed by numerous observers during subsequent days. It was found in the dense lake-side grasses of L. Meredith (Crowley Co.) 30 Dec 1995 - 1 Jan 1996 (MJ; 56-95-99).

**PURPLE FINCH** (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Two records of this species were accepted: a male in Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 6 Nov 1995 (RH; photo; 56-95-101); and a female in a tree lot at the intersection of Rds. JJ and 16 near Ft. Lyon (Bent Co.) on 19 Nov 1995 (MJ; field sketches; 56-95-102).

#### PART 2: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED -- IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONABLE

**RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*). This was a difficult record for the RC to evaluate. It was not accepted after re-circulation and discussion by a vote of 2-3. The committee invites additional documentation of this sighting in the Denver area; only one report was received. The record was of two juveniles at Chatfield Res. (Douglas and Jefferson Cos.) on 1 Dec 1995 (1-95-1).

\***LEAST BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus exilis*). A calling (singing) bird was reported from the marshes below Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 23 Jun 1995 (5-95-7). This record was based entirely on call and the brief description was felt to be incomplete. The vote was 3-4.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*). This first record is an example of the difficulty of separating this species from the very similar Tundra Swan, even with good views and a photograph. An apparent adult was described and photographed from Ridgway State Park (Ouray Co.), 20 May 1995 (photo; 8-95-13). Most RC members felt that the report was inadequate to eliminate Tundra Swan and that the submitted photograph was of a Tundra Swan. The vote was 2-5 upon re-circulation. A single adult, with no nearby large waterfowl for size comparison, was described from Huerfano Res. (Pueblo Co.) on 11 Nov 1995 (8-95-14). The long distance involved in this observation did not allow critical field marks to be described adequately. The vote was 3-4.

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*). This record was of two white-phase adults with a juvenile on 4 Nov 1995 near Muddy Creek arroyo in Pueblo Co. (12-95-23). The habitat was pinon-juniper woodland. There was no written description accompanying the letter. The RC members were not able to evaluate this record adequately due to the lack of a written description. The vote was 0-7. Observers are reminded that white-phase Gyrfalcons are not expected at the southern extreme of their winter range. Some *Buteo* sp., such as Ferruginous Hawk, may appear nearly white from underneath.

**WHOOPIING CRANE** (*Grus americana*). This single-observer record was of a flock of six birds at Barbour Ponds (Weld Co.) 23 Apr 1995 (16-95-27). This report was very brief and RC members did not feel that the observer sufficiently eliminated similarly appearing species. The vote was 0-7.

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris acuminata*). This record (19-95-30) consisted of four written reports, none with photographs. The record was of a single juvenile on 5 Aug 1995 at a pond near Weld Co. Rds. 42 and 45, Weld Co. This was a difficult record for the RC to evaluate and the RC appreciates and acknowledges written opinion from Paul Lehman. While the written descriptions of the bird seemed reasonable, there were inconsistencies between reports. These included description of posture, feeding style, leg color, upper breast and throat color, and undertail coverts. The date of occurrence also was a stumbling block for acceptance. The earliest arrival of juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in western Alaska is about 15 August and juveniles do not appear along the coast of California until around 20 August. Not only would this have been the second documented record of this species for Colorado, the date would make it of significance for North America. Thus

most RC members wished for a more detailed, consistent report or photographs. The vote was 2-5.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). A single-observer record (22-95-33) from near Ouray, (Ouray Co.) on 15 Jun 1995 did not eliminate other jaegers. The vote was 0-7.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*). An adult was reported from an unknown location on 29 Dec 1995 (23-95-42). The vote was 3-4.

**ACORN WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*). This report would have documented breeding of this species near Durango (La Plata Co.). The report was e-mail text and was perhaps not intended to document the occurrence. It included no description but was simply dates of occurrence (11 Apr - July 1995). The RC members felt that they could not render an opinion to accept this record (33-95-103). The vote was 1-6.

**VARIED THRUSH** (*Ixoreus naevius*). This report of an adult female from Aspen (Pitkin Co.) on the unusual date of 15 July 1995 was felt to be too brief and did not fully eliminate sub-adult American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) (44-95-69). The vote was 2-5.

**BENDIRE'S THRASHER** (*Toxostoma bendirei*). The controversy over the occurrence of this species in Colorado continues. Two records were not accepted by the RC: a single bird near Cortez (Montezuma Co.) on 25 Apr 1995, and a pair of birds five miles northwest of Del Norte (Rio Grande Co.) on 26-27 Jun 1995 (43-95-70 and 43-95-71 respectively). The possibility of worn-plumaged Sage Thrashers (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) could not be eliminated. In fact, with commendable caution, the second of these records was submitted as possible Bendire's or Sage thrashers. The votes were 0-7 and 0-7. There is controversy over the identification and occurrence of this species in Colorado. For recent discussion of the issue, see Rawinski et al. (1995).

**PINE WARBLER** (*Dendroica pinus*). A fall bird, listed as being of unknown sex, was observed at Golden Ponds Park (Boulder Co.) on 31 Aug 1995. The vote was 0-7.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). This report did not adequately eliminate similar species. It was a single bird seen 13 Oct 1995 in Lyons (Boulder Co.) (52-95-86). The vote was 3-4.

**PURPLE FINCH** (*Carpodacus purpureus*). This report described two birds out of a group of four birds on 20 Sep 1995 at Collbran (Mesa Co.) at

approximately 7000 feet (56-95-100). The observation only lasted one minute and the description did not adequately eliminate Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*). The RC vote was 1-6.

**PART 3: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED -- NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE**

**MANDARIN DUCK** (*Aix galericulata*). This Asian species is commonly kept by wildfowl enthusiasts. Individuals of this species show up occasionally in Colorado. They can be found year-round in Pueblo, where they have been released and are now breeding freely. This record consisted of a photograph and letter describing an adult male seen at Big Thompson Creek (Larimer Co.) on 5 Apr 1995 (photo; 8-95-18). The identification was not in doubt, but the question of origin resulted in a 0-7 vote by the RC.

**CALIFORNIA QUAIL** (*Callipepla californica*). This three-observer record was well documented. The identification was not in doubt by RC members. The record was of a single male, 3-18 April 1995, in Greeley (Weld Co.) (13-95-24). The location of the bird in a residential area of Greeley, the extreme tameness of the bird, and the availability of this species to keepers of wildfowl brought the origin of this individual into question. The committee vote was 0-7.

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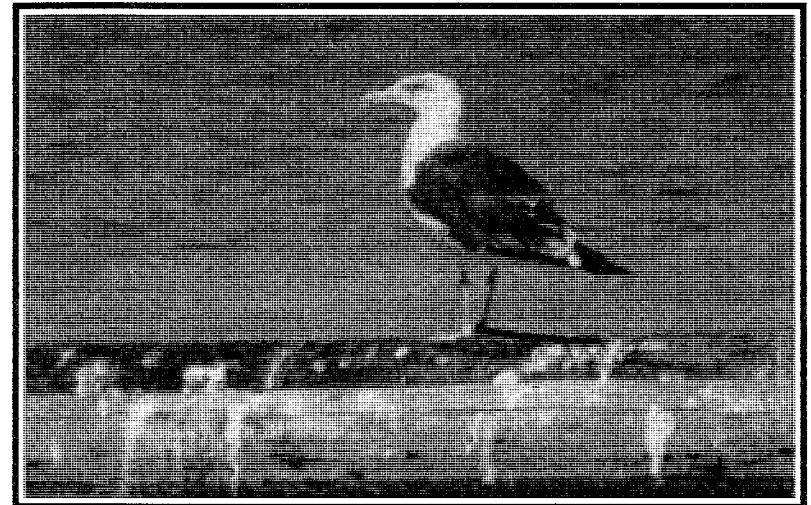
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Great Black-backed Gull, Cherry Creek Reservoir  
September 25, 1995  
by D. Leatherman