

**REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:
1997 RECORDS**

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This report covers the rare bird records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Bird Records Committee (hereafter the RC or the Committee) for 1997. The Committee evaluated 109 records of 71 species (and one hybrid) submitted by 58 observers. Seventeen of the reports were accompanied by photographs and 10 with sketches or field drawings. Of the 109 records, 105 received definitive votes by the RC through initial circulation and re-circulation; they are presented herein. An additional four records received non-definitive votes (Gyr Falcon #1997-22, Eurasian Collared-Dove #1997-47, Painted Bunting #1997-105, and Purple Finch #1997-108). According to RC Bylaws, these records will be discussed and resolved at a meeting of the Committee, and the results will be published in a subsequent RC report. Ninety-three of the 105 definitive records were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 89%. The majority of records are for birds observed in 1997. Per RC Bylaws, all "accepted" records received 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept--either on the initial circulation or on the re-circulation. All records that were "not accepted" received less than four votes to accept (3-4, 2-5, 1-6, or 0-7) either on initial circulation or on re-circulation.

As a result of the 1997 circulation, three species--Tufted Duck, Crested Caracara, and Royal Tern--were added to the official Colorado bird checklist. The Colorado list stands at 463 species as a result of these additions. Other potential first state records (Pacific Golden-Plover, Monk Parakeet, Chuck-will's-widow and Tropical Kingbird) were not accepted. Accounts of all three additions to the Colorado list, and the four unaccepted records, are included in this report.

Other highlights of this report include accepted records of Arctic Tern (two records), Lesser Nighthawk (four records), and Cerulean Warbler. The report also covers records from the incredible fallout of spring migrants at Lake Henry in southeastern Colorado on 8-9 May 1997 (Truan and Percival 1997).

Committee News

The Committee's membership at the close of 1998 was: Mark Janos (Chair), Joey Kellner, Bill Lisowsky, Joe Mammoser, John Rawinski, Bob Righter, and Vic Zerbi. With the RC's endorsement, the C.F.O. Board of Directors appointed Tony Leukering and Chris Wood to replace Mark Janos and Bob Righter as

their terms expired at the end of 1998, and Bill Lisowsky was appointed Chair for the years 1999-2001. Tony will serve the remainder of Bill Lisowsky's vacated term (until 2000) and Chris will serve from 1999-2001. Vic Zerbi agreed to serve an additional term (1999-2001).

Committee Functions

All records reviewed by the RC become archived at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. In addition, all written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation on all species published in its review list (Janos 1998). The Committee also seeks records of species occurring on unusual dates or in unusual locations for Colorado, and records of species previously unrecorded in Colorado. Please send your documentation to: Bill Lisowsky, RC Chair, 2919 Silverplume Dr., Fort Collins, Colorado 80526; or send it to the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collection, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. Documentation forms are available on the inside of this journal's mailer and on the CFO website at: <http://www.frii.com/~hopko>.

Report Format

This report is divided into three parts. Part 1 consists of accepted records. Parts 2 and 3 consist of records that were not accepted—for reasons related to questionable identification, natural occurrence, or origin. Species are listed in current A.O.U. taxonomic order (American Ornithologists' Union 1999). Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is the location/county where the bird was found, date(s) of occurrence, record accession number (note the new number format that provides a four-digit year; e.g., 1997-55), 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 the species is not currently on the RC's review list. For species with 15 or fewer Colorado records, the number of records accepted by the RC through this reporting period follows the species' name (in parentheses). Note that some of these numbers are corrected from previous reports, now that the records have been computerized.

Abbreviations Used in the Report: Co.=County; CC=Community College; Cr.=Creek; L.=Lake; NP=National Park; R.=River; Res.=Reservoir; SP=State Park; SWA=State Wildlife Area; WE=Wildlife Easement

Part 1: RECORDS ACCEPTED

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*): A basic-plumaged bird was at North Sterling Res. (Logan Co.) 6 Nov 1994 (JR; 1997-3). An alternate-plumaged adult was at John Martin Res. (Bent Co.) on 10 May 1997 (SD; 1997-4). The same day an immature-plumaged bird was at a pond near Snyder (Morgan Co.) (DL, photos; 1997-109).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*) (12): A juvenile bird was at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co.) from 13 Oct 1997 through at least 6 Dec 1997 (PG, JBH, JK; 1997-5). October 13 is a very early arrival date for this species anywhere in the lower 48 states.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) (13): A basic-plumaged adult was described from Warren L. near Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 27-28 Nov 1996 (DE; 1997-7). Another basic-plumaged bird was at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) from 26 Oct to 1 Nov 1997 (MJ; 1997-6). A third basic-plumaged adult was at Douglas Res. (Larimer Co.) on 10 Nov 1997 (SD; 1997-8).

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (10): An immature bird was observed at Barr L. (Adams Co.) on 23 Sep 1996 (TL; 1997-9). Although this coastal wanderer is rarely seen inland, there has been a flurry of records in Colorado during the last 10 years.



Brown Pelican
by Ken Giesen

***CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*): An alternate-plumaged adult was at a pond north of Harvey Gap near Silt (Garfield Co.) at 1829 meters (6000 feet) in elevation on 10 May 1997 (KP; 1997-10). This record was circulated due to the unusual mountain location.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (12): The four accepted records in 1996 were followed by only one in 1997, a single, alternate-plumaged bird 7.6 kilometers (4.7 miles) west of Las Animas (Bent Co.) on 24 Apr 1997 (MJ; 1997-11).

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*): Two immature Trumpeter Swans were described from North Sterling Res. (Logan Co.) on 16 Nov 1997 (SD; 1997-12). A single adult was seen at a gravel pond near Dotsero (Eagle Co.) from 18-29 Nov 1997 (JM; 1997-13). Another adult shared time between Gaynor L. and Little Gaynor L. (Boulder Co.) from 7 Dec 1997 through 10 Jan 1998 (DWK, RO; 1997-14). This individual shared its stay with an adult Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*), which afforded observers nice comparisons of the two species. Trumpeter Swan has become nearly as regular as Tundra Swan in Colorado in recent years.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*): An adult male in breeding plumage frequented an area of Ft. Collins that included Edora Park and City Park L. (Larimer Co.); it was seen sporadically by many observers from 3 Jan through 10 Apr 1997 (BL, photos; 1997-15).

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) (1): This overdue first state record was of an alternate plumaged male floating with other diving ducks at a small pond in Cottonwood Marsh at Walden Wildlife Habitat (Boulder Co.). It was discovered by Myron Plooster, who promptly notified the local birding community. It was ultimately seen by many observers during its stay 21-23 Mar 1997 (MP, PG, MJ, TL, sketch, LN; 1997-16). This record was accepted by a vote of 7-0.

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*): Two records of four individuals of this species were accepted in 1997: two females at Big Johnson Res. (El Paso Co.) 8-30 Nov 1997 (BBH, MJ; 1997-19); two females at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 8-16 Nov 1997 (MJ; 1997-20).

***OLDSQUAW** (*Clangula hyemalis*): A winter-plumaged female was on a gravel pit pond at Dotsero (Eagle Co.) on 3 Dec 1997 (JM, sketch; 1997-18). This report was circulated and included here due to the mountain location.

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara plancus*) (1): This interesting, first Colorado record was an adult bird found injured near Trinidad (Las Animas Co.) on 29 Sep 1997 (GE, photos; 1997-21). For an interesting account and a full description of this occurrence see Evans (1998). Strong evidence in favor of this individual's wildness was provided by Sigrid Ueblacker, an experienced raptor rehabilitator. The bird was bleached-out looking

and showed no wear in the tail feathers, nor was there abnormal bill or toenail growth--all signs of a wild bird. Upon being taken into captivity, the bird's behavior was typical of one experiencing its first contact with humans. This record was accepted by a vote of 6-1.

***MOUNTAIN PLOVER** (*Charadrius montanus*): An alternate-plumaged adult was in the sandy, open flats adjacent to sagebrush near Blue Mesa Res. (Gunnison Co.) on 13 Apr 1997 (KP; 1997-24). This location in the interior mountains of Colorado is unusual.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*): An alternate-plumaged male was at Duck L. (Larimer Co.) on 2 May 1996 (DE, photos; 1997-25).

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*): There were three accepted records of this species in 1997: two alternate plumaged males on 30 May 1997 at John Martin Res. (Bent Co.) (TB, CL; 1997-26); a juvenile at L. Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 5 Sep 1997 (MJ; 1997-27); and an adult in basic plumage at L. Holbrook (Otero Co.) on 21 Sep 1997 (MJ; 1997-28).

***BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** (*Calidris bairdii*): This very unusual record was of a basic-plumaged adult along Newlin Creek (Fremont Co.) at 1737 meters (5700 feet) in elevation on 22 Dec 1996 (TL; 1997-29). It was discovered during the Penrose, Colorado Christmas Bird Count and was very well documented by the observer.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*): Three records of this species were accepted: one juvenile at Fruitgrower's Res. (Delta Co.) on 18 Aug 1995 (RL, photos, CD, sketches; 1997-30); an alternate-plumaged female at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 17 May 1997 (PG, DQ; 1997-31); and four juveniles at Jumbo Res. (Logan Co.) on 27 Aug 1997 (SD; 1997-32).

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicaria*): Two observers had the good fortune to discover a brilliant alternate-plumaged female Red Phalarope at Antero Res. (Park Co.) at 2713 meters (8900 feet) in elevation on 8 June 1997 (TL; 1997-33). Less spectacular was a basic-plumaged bird at Duck L. (Larimer Co.) on 20 Sep 1997 (SD; 1997-34).

LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*): A basic-plumaged adult was at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 21 Oct 1997 (HK, UK; 1997-35).

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*) (15): A juvenile in striking plumage was found among thousands of Franklin's Gulls (*L. pipixcan*) at L. Holbrook (Otero Co.) on 12 Oct 1997 (MJ, field sketch; 1997-36).

MEW GULL (*Larus canus*) (13): A basic-plumaged adult was at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 8 Mar 1997 (PL; 1997-37).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) (15): A first-summer bird was at Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 26 Apr, 2 May, and 16 Jul 1997 (MJ, photos; 1997-39). The adult at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) Co.)

appeared for the sixth consecutive winter from 28 Nov 1997 through 1 Jan 1998 (MJ, RO; 1997-40).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*): A first-winter bird was at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 12 Nov 1997 (RO; 1997-41).

ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*) (1): This first record for Colorado was discovered by Duane Nelson at Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) in the course of doing field work on Least Terns (*S. antillarum*) and Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) in the Lower Arkansas R. Valley. Only seven lucky birders observed this individual during its stay 15-16 Jul 1997 (MJ, field sketches, DN, photos, DS, sketch; 1997-42). For a complete account of this occurrence see Nelson (1999). This record was accepted by a vote of 7-0.

***COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*): One alternate-plumaged adult was in an unusual location—the Blanca Wetlands, San Luis Valley (Alamosa Co.) on 25 May 1997 (PSS, AS; 1997-43). Two basic-plumaged birds were in western Colorado near Dotsero (Eagle Co.) on 16-17 Oct 1997 (JM; 1997-44).

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) (6): There were two records of this species accepted in 1997: a definitive alternate-plumaged bird at Colorado River SP (Mesa Co.) on 31 May 1997 (TL, RL; 1997-45); and an alternate-plumaged adult at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 20 Sep 1997 (BG, sketch, JH; 1997-44).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*): An adult bird summered at Fruita (Mesa Co.) from 2 May through 8 Aug 1997 (PC, photos, RL; 1997-48).

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) (6): A single bird was in a yard in Cascade (El Paso Co.) from 18 Jan through 8 Feb 1997 (SB; 1997-49).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) (12): The accepted records of this southwestern U.S. species have continued to mount since acceptance of the second Colorado record near Montrose (Montrose Co.) on 10 June 1987. Despite numbers of sight records, there has never been documentation of a calling bird in Colorado. An adult male was found along the Poudre R. in Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 10 Sep 1995 (DL; 1997-51). Great photographs by David Leatherman accompanied a record of an adult male and female seen by many behind Lamar CC in Lamar (Prowers Co.) 8-10 May 1997 (DL, photos, DQ; 1997-52). A male was in the riparian grove just south of L. Holbrook (Otero Co.) on 12 May 1997 (MJ, field sketch; 1997-53). Finally, an adult female was described from along the Poudre R. in Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 28 May 1997 (DL; 1997-54).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD (*Eugenes fulgens*) (5): An adult female came to a hummingbird feeder at a residence in Roxborough Park (Douglas

Co.) in the fall of 1997. Although this individual was seen by many birders over a period of time, the RC only received one written report, for 18 Oct 1997 (CW; 1997-56).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*) (6): A male was at a residence in Boulder (Boulder Co.) from 5-10 Dec 1997. Although reports of this individual made the local press, along with photos, the news did not reach the general birding public (VD, photos; 1997-57).

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*): One adult was near Lake City (Gunnison Co.) on 24 May 1997 (KP; 1997-58).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (9): A single adult was found in open country south of Springfield (Baca Co.) on 24 May 1997 (DQ; 1997-62). A fall-adult male was observed near Rustic (Larimer Co.) on 5 Aug 1997 (BL, photo; 1997-63).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*): During the last 10 years, there has been an upsurge in Colorado records of this species. An adult was at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 9 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-68). A second individual was at Chatfield SP (Jefferson Co.) on 25-27 Aug 1997 (KS; 1997-69).

***GRAY VIREO** (*Vireo vicinior*): Although this species is not on the RC's review list (Janos 1998), occurrences outside its known range on the western slope of Colorado are unusual. An adult was near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 8 Sep 1997 (DSi; 1997-70).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*): It was a banner spring for this species in Colorado, with five individuals, all adult birds, reported and accepted by the RC for the period of 2-14 May 1997. In addition, one adult bird was present at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 3 May 1996 (BP; 1997-72). The 1997 records: one along Willow Cr. at Lamar CC in Lamar (Prowers Co.) from 2-3 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-73); one in the riparian area below the dam at Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 4 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-74); one in the trees at the edge of Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 10 May 1997 (SD; 1997-75); one at Rocky Ford SWA (Otero Co.) on 12 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-76); and finally another adult at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 14 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-77).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) (2): The abundance and pattern of occurrence of this recently "split" species is not well known in Colorado and there are just two documented records for Colorado (AOU 1997, Janos 1997). An adult bird was reported from Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 20 Sep 1997 (DL; 1997-71).

CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*): This bird was present in Van Truan's backyard in Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) for some days before and after the single report that was received for 23 Sep 1997 (MJ; 1997-64).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*): Two records were received and accepted in 1997. The first was a single bird on 9-12 May

1997 at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) (MJ; 1997-65). Another single bird was at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 19 May 1997 (MP; 1997-66). In general, observers of *Catharus* sp. thrushes in Colorado have not considered the possibility of Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknelli*) in evaluating such sightings (see National Geographic Society 1999).

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*) (11): An adult male was at a Colorado State Forest Service nursery in Ft. Collins (Larimer Co.) on 16 Dec 1995 (DE; 1997-67).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora pinus*): An adult bird was along Willow Cr. at Lamar CC in Lamar (Prowers Co.) from 1-5 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-78). A second bird was in the trees at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 9 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-79).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*): There was one report of this species in 1997--a single bird at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 11-12 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-80).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER (*Vermivora pinus* X *V. chrysoptera*): This rarely reported hybrid was described from Bluff L. in Denver (Denver Co.) on 11 May 1997 (BPh, sketch; 1997-81).

***YELLOW WARBLER** (*Dendroica petechia*): This record documents a winter occurrence of the species on the Barr Lake Christmas Bird Count. The two birds were a female and a probable male behind the Brighton sewage ponds along the S. Platte R. (Adams Co.) on 28 Dec 1997 (BK, TL; 1997-82).

***BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** (*Dendroica caerulescens*): There was a mountain record of this species in 1997: a male in breeding plumage at Cub Lake Trail in Rocky Mountain NP (Larimer Co.) on 26 Jun 1997 (WR; 1997-83). The bird sang persistently from a grove of mature aspens and conifers at about 2560 meters (8400 feet) in elevation. The mid-summer date and tireless singing by this individual indicates that it had established a breeding territory in the area. There are no nesting records of this species in Colorado.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*): This species made a good showing in Colorado in 1997, with four records submitted and accepted: three in the spring and one in the fall. A female was in the trees at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) during a windstorm on 2 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-84). An alternate-plumaged male was in the trees at the southwest corner of Milton Res. (Weld Co.) on 16 May 1997 (RO; 1997-85). A singing adult male pleased observers at the L. Hasty campground below the dam at John Martin Res. (Bent Co.) on 17 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-86). Finally, a fall-plumaged female was discovered by Brandon Percival at Valco Ponds in Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 26-27 Sep 1997 (MJ; 1997-87).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*): A singing, white-lored individual was discovered by Brandon Percival at the L. Henry grove (Crowley Co.) on 22 May 1997 (AS; 1997-88).

***GRACE'S WARBLER** (*Dendroica graciae*): This record documents a small breeding colony of Grace's Warblers in a mixed Ponderosa Pine/Douglas-fir woodland at the south end of Sapinero Mesa near Lake City (Gunnison Co.) at 2682 meters (8800 feet) in elevation. The record documented at least four singing males on 24 May 1997 (KP; 1997-89).

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*) (15): Brandon Percival discovered an immature, fall-plumaged male at Valco Ponds, Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 5 Dec 1997 (BE, MJ, RO; 1997-90). It was present until at least 8 Feb 1998 and was seen by many observers.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*) (13): A singing male was present at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 1 Jun 1997 (HK, UK, DQ; 1997-91). A first-fall male was in Cottonwood Canyon (Baca Co.) on 22 Aug 1997 (CW; 1997-92).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*): An alternate-plumaged male was described from near Queens SWA near Eads (Kiowa Co.) on 11-12 May 1990 (VD, RD; 1997-93).

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*) (3): The beautiful female Cerulean Warbler discovered during the CFO convention (25-26 May 1997) in Monte Vista by Drew Smith was the outstanding migrant land-bird find of the year (see Smith 1997); it foraged in some trees around Home L. SWA (Rio Grande Co.). Smith found it during a rain squall on the afternoon of 25 May, and it delighted scores of observers that day, and the next day when it was unexpectedly still present (PG, MJ, HK, AS, sketch, PSS; photos; 1997-94).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*): An adult male was along Willow Cr. behind Lamar CC at Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 4-5 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-95). A second male was in Gregory Canyon (Boulder Co.) on 20 May 1997 (PG; 1997-96). A first-fall female was in the L. Henry grove (Crowley Co.) on 22 Aug 1997 (CW; 1997-97).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*): A single bird was at the grove at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) from 9-12 May 1997 (MJ; 1997-98).

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*): An adult male was found at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 30 May 1997 (JH; 1997-100).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*) (14): A breeding-plumaged male was at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 23 and 25 May 1997 (BM; 1997-101).

CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*): A first-year female was banded

- at Barr L. SP (Adams Co.) on 31 Aug 1997 (LN, photos; 1997-102).
- HEPATIC TANAGER** (*Piranga flava*) (15): On 15 May 1994, an adult male was at the south edge of Mesa de Maya (Las Animas Co.), where it is known to breed (TV; 1997-103).
- SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*) (15): A breeding-plumaged male was present at North Shanahan Ridge, City of Boulder Open Space (Boulder Co.), on the interesting dates of 9-12 Jun 1997 (DEv; 1997-104).
- ***BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus galbula*): A breeding-plumaged male was at a residence in Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 28 Aug 1997 (MP, SP, photo; 1997-106).
- PURPLE FINCH** (*Carpodacus purpureus*): A male was at the Red Rocks Trading Post near Morrison (Jefferson Co.) from 25 Dec 1997 through 10 Jan 1998 (TL, RO; 1997-2).

Part 2: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED - Identification Questionable

- TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fuligula*): A report of a male frequenting small ponds along the South Platte R. in Adams County on 22-26 Apr 1997 was not accepted by a vote of 3-4 (photos; 1997-17). Most RC members felt that the bird in question was a hybrid with another *Aythya* sp., perhaps Ring-necked Duck (*A. collaris*).
- PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** (*Pluvialis fulva*): This report was of a single bird seen flying and heard calling at Barr L. SP (Adams Co.) on 4 Sep 1996 (1997-23). Due to the brevity of the observation this record was not accepted by a 0-7 vote. The single observer submitted the report to document possible sightings of this species in the event that a pattern of occurrence develops. There is no documented record for this species in Colorado.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*): A report of a basic-plumaged adult at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 8 Nov 1997 was not accepted by a vote of 2-5 (1997-38).
- SNOWY OWL** (*Nyctea scandiaca*): This report was for a bird seen briefly--in flight only--on 26 Dec 1997 near Boulder (Boulder Co.). Questions of confusion with albino raptors or with a falconer's white-morph Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) known to be present in the area came up among RC members. Upon re-circulation of the record, the Committee voted not to accept by a vote of 3-4 (1997-1).
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*): A report of a single bird near Lyons (Larimer Co.) on 10 Sep 1994 was seen and described too briefly to be identified confidently, thus it was not accepted by a vote of 0-7.
- DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*): There were

two reports submitted in 1997 and neither was accepted. The first was a single-observer record of a single bird at Hannah Ranch SWA (El Paso Co.) on 3 Apr 1997. The bird was observed singing. Several issues brought up by RC members included: the very early date [more typical of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) in Colorado]; the initial observer's unawareness that the Dusky-capped Flycatcher is rare in Colorado; and a written description that did not fully eliminate Say's Phoebe. The vote was 0-7 not to accept (1997-59). The second record presented a difficult task for the Committee: A singing bird was described from VanBibber Park, Arvada (Jefferson Co.) on 10 Oct 1997 (1997-60). Most Committee members felt that similar species, particularly Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*), were not ruled out. Upon re-circulation of the record, the RC voted 2-5 not to accept the record. A second Colorado record (11 May 1883 in Fort Lyon was the first) of this species still awaits some lucky finder. A tape recording of the song, if heard, or identifiable photographs would be desirable to document this species in Colorado.

- TROPICAL KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*): A single bird was present for about five minutes at Black Forest (El Paso Co.) on 13 Sep 1997. The date and location of this observation are tantalizing, but the first Colorado record will have to wait for a bird that stays longer and perhaps either vocalizes or poses for a camera. The RC voted 0-7 not to accept (1997-61).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*): A single bird was seen and described near the site of the Cerulean Warbler on 25 May 1997 at Home L. SWA (Rio Grande Co.). The written description was supplemented with photographs that the majority of the RC felt ruled out Swainson's Warbler (photos; 1997-99).
- PURPLE FINCH** (*Carpodacus purpureus*): An adult male was reported in a yard in Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 28 Feb 1997 (1997-107). The report was felt to be too brief, and, upon re-circulation the record was not accepted by a vote of 3-4.

Part 3 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED - Establishment of Introduced Population Questionable

- MONK PARAKEET** (*Myiopsitta monachus*): The occurrence of this species in Denver (Jefferson Co.) 21 Sep-6 Oct 1997 was well-documented by the observer in a written report and photographs submitted to the RC. The Committee voted 0-7 not to accept based on the lack of evidence that the population is well-established and self-sustaining (photos, 1997-50).

Key to Contributors

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