

## REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2001 REPORTS, PART II

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### Introduction

This report represents the second installment of the results of the circulation of rarity documentations submitted to the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) in 2001. As stated in the first installment (Leukering and Semo 2003), the CBRC received 296 reports from 83 contributors covering 200 occurrences of 107 species. The first installment reported on 116 of these occurrences; here we report on an additional 19 occurrences from the 2001 circulation. We also report on the circulation of five reports occurring in 2001 that the CBRC received late in 2002 and of one report held over from the 2000 circulation.

This CBRC report covers the evaluation of 56 documents from a mere 18 contributors of 25 occurrences of 16 reported species. The CBRC effected the circulation of these reports in 2002 and 2003, with the majority of reports originating in 2001, but with reports dating back to 1996. The documents reviewed included reports on one species previously unrecorded from the state, Black Skimmer, and the Committee accepted that record, bringing the state total to 473. Other reports detailed here include that of the state's fourth White Ibis, its seventh Long-tailed Jaeger, and its eighth Connecticut Warbler.

Due to the nature of this article, the percentage of accepted reports is 100%, a unique happenstance in the annals of the CBRC. Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Committee members voting on any or all of these reports were: Coen Dexter, Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Christopher L. Wood.

With only 18 observers contributing the 56 documents, contributors averaged over 3.1 documentations among the 25 occurrences treated here. The top five contributors in this batch were Larry Semo (13 documents), Tony Leukering (11), Christopher L. Wood (eight), and Rachel Hopper and Ric Olson (four each). Unfortunately, this means that four CBRC members account for 36 of the 56 documents. We here beg other observers to submit documentation to the Committee. We hope that the upcoming online CBRC submission website will encourage others to join in on the fun! We tip our hats to Rachel Hopper for being the only non-CBRC member to crack the top five this time, but hope she gets a run for her place in future reports.

### Corrigenda

When dealing with large amounts of information, most of us find that we, unfortunately, make mistakes; the authors are no different. We here wish to correct a few such mistakes that crept into our last report (Leukering and Semo 2003) and for which we heartily apologize to those affected.

- In Part II, in the account of the report of the Anna's Hummingbird, we mistakenly suggested that the record, had it been accepted, would have provided the first state record. This is in error, as the CBRC has accepted seven records of the species.
- The Golden-crowned Sparrow in *Boulder* should have been 2001-131 (not 2001-024).
- We will have additional corrigenda in the next installment.

### Committee News

Scott Hutchings continues work on the design and implementation of the Committee's new web-based submission and review system, a project whose progress continues apace. In a recent meeting, CFO web master Rachel Hopper, Leukering, and Semo provided input on the project and came away quite excited about the design. We look forward to implementing it in the near future and expect to be beta-testing it very soon.

In a recent vote of the entire CBRC (6-1), the Committee has decided to retroactively remove White-winged Dove from all review lists, effective 1 January 2002 (see Semo and Leukering in this issue). The list of reports that the CBRC is currently considering or about to review include potential first state records for Black Vulture, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Smith's Longspur.

### Committee Functions

All reports received (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002), and for reports of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. While documentary materials can be submitted in hard copy to Tony Leukering (PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601), the CBRC would greatly appreciate submission via the new CBRC website, which is scheduled to be available before the end of 2004. *Though handwritten and typed documentations are still greatly appreciated, submitting reports electronically via the new website will be much more useful and will make the Committee's job much easier.* The members' term-expiration dates are printed on this journal's masthead.

### Report format

The organization and style of this report follow that of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. This report consists of only one part, that of accepted records. The CBRC will furnish the majority of the remainder of 2001 reports and a large chunk of 2002 reports in its next installment

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1998) through the 44th supplement (Banks et al. 2003). An asterisk preceding a species' name indicates that the species is not currently on any CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002), but are unseasonable or locally very rare. As of 1 January 2002, the CBRC removed from the main review list, but only the main review list, those species preceded by the pound, or number, sign (#) (Semo et al. 2002; Semo and Leukering 2004); thus, the reports here are from a period when such species were on the main review list. The Committee also removed a few species from all review lists, effective 1 January 2002, and those species are here marked with two asterisks, thus the reports here are from a period when the species were on the main review list.

The numbers in parentheses after each species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado followed by the number of accepted records in the past ten years (1992 - 2001). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement on the main CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002). However, note that the number of accepted records will decline for some species as the CBRC tackles the backlog of determinations as to how many of the accepted records are simply recurrences in subsequent years of a known individual.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Each record presents as much of the following information as we have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, second round (with the number of "accepted" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are presented first if that person (those people) contributed documentation and are underlined; additional contributors' initials follow in alphabetical order by name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined, but presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials and initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "v" (v). Thus, the parenthetical expression "(JD v, RA†, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 4-3, 5-2)" means: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and as the

finder, is first in the list of those that submitted details with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so comes second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2001-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four “accepted” votes and three “not accepted” votes, the second-round vote was 5-2 in favor of accepting the report, and since this report was listed in Part I, the report was accepted at a CBRC meeting. The decision on most reports is completed on the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized, in keeping with the style established for the *News from the Field* column in this journal (e.g., Wood and Semo 2001). We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans.

Abbreviations used in this report are: **BR**=Bonny Reservoir, *Yuma*; **CR**=Chatfield Reservoir, *Jefferson/Douglas* (the specific county is mentioned in the text); **HR**=Horseshoe Reservoir, *Larimer*; **SL**=Standley Lake, *Jefferson*; **WR**=Windsor Reservoir, *Weld* (not to be confused with the Windsor Reservoir in *Larimer*).

### **Part I: RECORDS ACCEPTED**

**HARLEQUIN DUCK** - *Histrionicus histrionicus* (4/1). A female along the Animas River in Durango, *La Plata*, 12 January - 20 March 2001 (MH, PG, RH, JK †, TL, RO †, BKP, LS †; 2001-1; 7-0), provided probably the most excitement of any bird in the state in 2001. Though other species found in the state in 2001 were rarer (e.g., the first state records of both Black Skimmer and Costa’s Hummingbird), unlike those rarer birds, the Harlequin put on an excellent show for large numbers of Colorado and out-of-state birders. As the previous state record of the species was 25 years earlier, and that bird was seen by only a couple very lucky birders, many birders were finally able to fill in that empty space in front of “Harlequin Duck” on their state checklists.

**\*\*BLACK SCOTER** - *Melanitta nigra* (23/13). Many observers ogled a female-plumaged bird at SL 28-29 October 2001 (RH, TL, RO, LS †, DF; 2001-93; ). Also present at the site on the second day were a Red-throated Loon and a Red-necked Grebe! Another female-plumaged bird visited HR on 8 December 2001 (TL, LS †, RH; 2001-114; 7-0).

**RED-THROATED LOON** - *Gavia stellata* (29/16). A juvenile was present on SL 28 October through 9 November 2001 (TL, RO, LS †, BG; 2001-92; 7-0).

**#RED-NECKED GREBE** - *Podiceps grisegena* (22/17). The CBRC accepted four reports of this species in 2001, two of which were detailed in Leukering and Semo (2003). The other two were of single birds at SL 10-23 December 2001 (LS †, NE; 2001-193; 7-0) and at Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*, 15 December 2001 (LS †; 2001-167; 7-0). The former bird was found on 9 December and the latter bird was present at PR for quite some time in December, but no other observers submitted documentation.

**REDDISH EGRET** - *Egretta rufescens* (5/4). A subadult white-morph individual pranced around first John Martin Res., *Bent*, and then Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa* (DL, CLW †, DN; 2001-77; 7-0). This report provides the state’s first record of a white-morph Reddish Egret and one of few records in the interior of North America.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** - *Nyctanassa violacea* (13/6). Observers saw a juvenile near the southwest corner of Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, on two dates, 10 and 23 August 2001 (TL, CLW †, NG; 2001-71; 7-0).

**WHITE IBIS** - *Eudocimus albus* (4/3). A few observers were fortunate to see an adult on JJ Road 1.5 miles east of 17 Road, *Bent*, on 2 June 2001 (DN, MCL; 2001-54; 1-6, 7-0). The single documentation that circulated in the first round was very brief, only providing information that the bird was white with a red bill. As this is a description of virtually all albino (*sensu stricto*) birds, the Committee was not convinced by the description. Prior to the second round, the CBRC received a second documentation on the individual, so the report was circulated in the second round. The second report provided most of the descriptive details for which the Committee members were looking. The site where the bird was found is that known by some as the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Spot (the location of the occurrence of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in 2000); the site hosted a Tricolored Heron earlier in 2001. It is obviously quite the birding spot!

**POMARINE JAEGER** - *Stercorarius pomarinus* (13/4). Two dark-morph juveniles were present at BR on 8 October 2000 (TL, LS; 2001-155; 7-0). An adult light morph was well documented from CR, *Jefferson*, 12 and 13 October 2000 (LS †; 2000-45; 7-0); this bird was also seen in the *Douglas* part of the reservoir. Another bird, seemingly in Alternate I plumage, was at WR in the period 1-2 November 2001 (JF, TL, CLW †, NK; 2001-171; 7-0).

- LONG-TAILED JAEGER - *Stercorarius longicaudus* (7/6). A sub-adult in alternate plumage graced SL 25-27 August 2001 (LS †, PG, RH, AS †, CLW †; 2001-143; 7-0). Though very adult-like, the bird had a small number of retained juvenal feathers among its underwing coverts. A picture of this individual was published on page 113 of the April 2002 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.
- LAUGHING GULL - *Larus philadelphia* (27/15). The CBRC accepted three reports of this species from occurrences in 2001. The first of these was an adult at Neesopah Res., *Kiowa*, present for much of the summer, but documented only on 22 July (LS, DN; 2001-175; 7-0). An adult still mostly in alternate plumage at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 3 August provided the second record of the year (CLW; 2002-4; 7-0). The list is rounded out by a bird in Basic I plumage that the Kingerys found on 30 November while counting waterbirds along the South Platte River in *Adams* as part of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Early-winter Waterbird Count (HK, LS †, UK; 2001-120; 7-0). Semo found and videotaped the bird the next day at SL, the site at which most of the gulls that forage in the *Adams* stretch of the South Platte spend their nights (L. Semo pers. obs., T. Leukering pers. obs.).
- MEW GULL - *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* (23/16). A basic-plumaged adult with a limp spent the period 5-10 March 2001 at Jim Hamm Park, *Boulder* (KS, JV; 2001-144; 6-1). This bird is undoubtedly the same Mew Gull with a limp that was present at this site the previous spring (though in Basic II plumage) and which is, at this writing, present at this site in December 2003.
- #LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - *Larus fuscus graellsii* (44/41). The year 2001 was the final year in which this species was a member of the main Colorado review list. Of the many Lesser Black-backs found in that year, the CBRC received documentation on only four. Leukering and Semo (2003) treated one record and we here treat the other three. A bird in Basic IV loafed on WR 2 November - 8 December 2001 (TL, JE; 2001-115; 7-0), two adults (two separate record numbers) were at HR on 8 December 2001 (TL, LS; 2001-97; 7-0 and LS †, TL; 2001-116; 7-0), and, finally, an adult was at Thomas Res., *Boulder*, 1 December 2001 (BS †; 2001-126; 7-0) that stayed in the area through, at least, the Boulder CBC on 22 December, but the CBRC did not receive documentation for that date.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - *Rissa tridactyla* (24/12). A juvenile spent much of the spring of 2001 at CR, *Jefferson & Douglas* (LS †, CLW †, JK; 2002-1; 7-0). This bird's specific dates of occurrence span the period 11 April - 16 May and documentation dates span 24 April - 14 May. As detailed in Wood and Semo (2001), the bird was almost wholly in juvenal plumage, even at this apparently late time. This individual provides the first record in Colorado between 10 March and 27 October; all other records have been of individuals in late fall, winter, and very early spring. There is a report of an individual (age?) at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, in late May 1988, but details of that occurrence never reached the CBRC for review and archival purposes. It is not too late to submit such details!
- BLACK SKIMMER - *Rhynchops niger* (1/1). One of the unlikely birds ever found in Colorado, an adult Black Skimmer at Jett Res., *Kiowa*, 19-21 July 2001 provided a first record for Colorado (DF sketch, PG, RO v, CLW †, DN; 2001-64; 7-0). Jett Res. is the easternmost of three pools that, at very high water, form one large, upside-down L-shaped reservoir in the northwest part of the "Indian Reservoirs" south of Eads (the southernmost of the three is known as Neesopah Res.). Hopefully, someone will publish an article in this journal on this event, though a picture of this individual graced the cover of the January 2002 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.
- #WORM-EATING WARBLER - *Helmitheros vermivora* (29/19). One visited the Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*, 22 April 2001 (TL, LS †, BKP; 2001-123; 7-0).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - *Oporornis agilis* (8/5). One, seen briefly and heard calling, was at the Last Chance Rest Area, *Washington*, 27 May 2001 (CLW; 2002-3; 6-1).

#### Reporters and Cited Observers

Marie Cici-Lee, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner, Joe Fontaine, Peter Gent, Brian Gibbons, Nancy Gobris, Mona Hill, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Urling Kingery, Nick Komar, Dave Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Brandon K. Percival, Bill Schmoker, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, Andrew Spencer, John Vanderpoel, Christopher L. Wood.

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