

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

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### Introduction

In 2001, the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) received 296 reports from 83 contributors covering 200 occurrences of 107 species. Additionally, we circulated six reports that were either held over from previous circulations or were being recirculated. Here we report only on a portion of those; we will report on the remainder in the next issue of *Colorado Birds*. All decisions that we report here are ones for which the CBRC made its final decision in the first round of circulation, but do not include all such reports.

This CBRC report covers the evaluation of 150 documents from 64 contributors of 116 occurrences of 79 reported species, which we reviewed in 2002 and early 2003. Most of these reports detailed bird occurrences in 2001, but five reports are of bird records from as early as 1993. The documents reviewed included reports on four species that were previously unrecorded from the state (Ruddy Shelduck, Costa's Hummingbird, Bridled Titmouse, and Fieldfare). Of these, the CBRC accepted 103 records of 69 species and did not accept reports on 13 occurrences of 13 species, including one species new to the state list – Costa's Hummingbird. The acceptance rate of the reports reviewed here is 88.8%, which is similar to those of previous years (Leukering and Wood 2002). Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Each report that was not accepted received fewer than four votes to accept in the final vote for that report.

### Committee News

The CBRC's membership at the close of 2002 was: Tony Leukering, Ric Olson,

Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Chris Wood. Schofield opted not to accept a second term and Coen Dexter of Nucla, who has served previously, accepted an invitation to join the Committee to fill that vacancy. Semo was re-elected to a second term and was appointed to the position of Secretary. Finally, Percival and Vanderpoel were also re-elected to second terms.

The Committee is beginning its transition to the modern era by completely revamping how it conducts business. Leukering and Semo are working with the CFO web master, Rachel Hopper, and with Scott Hutchings (a website designer) to design a web-based review process. We hope to be able to conduct the circulation of 2002 reports (and all subsequent reports) entirely via the Internet.

### 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 (formerly the Denver Museum of Natural History), 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 2003. ***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 Wood (2002). This report consists of three parts: Part I consists of accepted records, Part II lists those reports that were not accepted because the documentation did not support the identification, and Part III lists those reports that were not accepted due to questionable origin.

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* and its supplements (A.O.U. 1998, 2000, 2002). An asterisk preceding a species name indicates that the species is not currently placed on the main review list (Semo

et al. 2002). Reports listed for asterisked species either originated from a year that the species was on the review list, are from a year and in a location for which the species is on the supplementary review list (Semo et al. 2002), or were unseasonable. Those species preceded by the pound sign (#) are those which were removed from the main review list as of 1 January 2002. 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 (number of "accepted" votes are 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 also 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 the CBRC annual 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., Semo and Wood 2003). 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: **BLSP**=Barr Lake State Park, *Adams*; **CCR**=Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*; **CGC**=Cattails Golf Course, *Alamosa, Alamosa*; **ChR**=Chatfield Reservoir, *Douglas and Jefferson* (county indicated in account); **CVCG**=Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*; **FLWE**=Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*; **JMR**=John Martin Reservoir, *Bent*; **NWR**=National Wildlife Refuge; **PaR**=Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata*; **PR**=Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*; **Res.**=reservoir; **SCL**=Strauss Cabin Lake, *Larimer*; **SL**=Standley Lake, *Jefferson*; **SP**=state park; **SWA**=state wildlife area.

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

**RED-NECKED GREBE** - *Podiceps grisegena* (20/15). One visited the Plum Creek delta of Chatfield Res., *Douglas*, 26-27 October 2001 (HK, JBH; 2001-96; 7-0). Another was at BLSP 1-2 December 2001 (TL, JBn; 2001-117; 7-0).

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (13/5). One was among Double-crested Cormorants at JMR on 8-9 April 2001 (BKP; 2001-20; 7-0). Increased attention to cormorants in the state has shown this species to occur virtually annually, however, very few of these reports have been submitted to the CBRC, including the report of three birds at Ireland Res., *Weld*, in spring and summer of 1996.

**LEAST BITTERN** - *Ixobrychus exilis* (16/3). One seen walking and in flight at the CGC on 13 May 2001 provided a first accepted record for the San Luis Valley (JR; 2001-84; 7-0)

\***GREAT EGRET** - *Egretta alba*. Two visited PaR on 29 May 2001 (JB; 2001-53; 6-1) for a rare local record.

**TRICOLORED HERON** - *Egretta tricolor* (19/7). An adult was present in the Ft. Lyon marshes on the west end of JMR 25 April to at least 2 May 2001 (TL, RH, MI; 2001-33; 7-0). Shortly after seeing her state Tricolored Heron, the bird above, Rachel Hopper (then known as Rachel Kolokoff) found an Alternate-plumaged bird at SCL 17 May - 22 June 2001 (RH†, SD, DL; 2001-48; 7-0). A fourth person submitted details on the latter bird, but did not write or sign his/her name; we know not who the person is. If you are reading this, please let us know, so that we can add your name to the archives on this record.

- GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus* (27/23). First one, then a second, was found along Prospect Road east of Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 25 April - 1 May 2001 (RH, MI†, TL; 2001-26; 7-0). Providing only the second West Slope record, one was found at PaR on 24 April 2001 (SA; 2001-41; 7-0). One, apparently found a day or two earlier (we do not know who the finder is), was seen at Beebe Draw south of Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, on 1 May (DFa; 2001-157; 7-0). Finally, one was at the Rocky Ford sewage ponds on 2 May 2001 (TL, MI sketch; 2001-49; 7-0). Though Glossy Ibis is now annual in the state in non-consequential numbers, due to the identification difficulties that *Plegadis* ibis present, particularly now that there are presumptive hybrids being seen in the Great Plains (Arterburn and Grzybowski 2003), the CBRC maintains the species on the main review list.
- BRANT - *Branta bernicla* (11/7). An adult graced Long Pond, *Larimer*, 19-22 December 2001 (RH; 2001-152; 7-0), though was actually seen only on the outside dates of that span. Though the report was submitted as Black Brant, the Committee left as uncertain the subspecies to which the bird is referable, as the description did not eliminate the taxon called Gray-bellied Brant; a taxon that remains uncertainly described. The CBRC referred to the extensive discussion on the ID-Frontiers listserver concerning Gray-bellied Brant.
- TRUMPETER SWAN - *Cygnus buccinator* (20/13). Two were well-documented and photographed at Lake Avery, *Rio Blanco*, 3 November - 3 December 2001 (DH†, KP; 2001-118; 7-0).
- EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope* (23/9). A male was at Ft. Collins City Park, *Larimer*, on 2 March 2001 (AP; 2001-13; 7-0). Whether this was the male that had spent the previous five or so winters in Ft. Collins is unknown, but that bird had not been seen all winter, so it seems likely that this is a different bird that arrived on spring migration.
- #BLACK SCOTER - *Melanitta nigra* (21/11). One (age and sex uncertain) was at the east end of Blue Mesa Res., *Gunnison*, on 12 November 2001 (TL; 2001-119; 7-0). The bird was videotaped by another observer, but the CBRC has not received such evidence. One adult female was at the JMR dam on 27 December 2001 (TL, MJ; 2001-134; 7-0).
- COMMON BLACK-HAWK - *Buteogallus anthracinus* (4/2). An adult spent at least two days eating crayfish out of a former trout pond along Lightner Creek Road west of Durango, *La Plata*, 13-14 April 2001 (SA, PD, BT, GT; 2001-32; 7-0). Though the bird was, apparently, photographed, we did not receive any of the photos; it is not too late, whoever you are. Another adult was found just east of Montrose, *Montrose*, on 9 June 2001 (SD; 2001-102; 7-0). A third report from 2001, from *Las Animas*, is still making its way through the Committee.

However, this spate of reports, all in spring and early summer and from three different counties, is incredible and unmatched in the annals of Colorado birding. In fact, there are only two previous state records.

- \*BROAD-WINGED HAWK - *Buteo platypterus*. While looking for the reported Varied Thrush on the south campus of the University of Colorado, Boulder, *Boulder*, on 24 December 2001, Bill Schmoker found and photographed a medium-sized raptor that turned out to be a Broad-winged Hawk (BS†; 2001-132; 7-0). This report provides the state's first winter record and one of exceedingly few, if only, well-documented winter records in the US away from coastal states. More details are available in Schmoker (2002).
- \*MERLIN - *Falco columbarius*. While conducting a transect for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, a seasonal staff person found a Merlin (age and sex uncertain, but not an adult male) near the junction of Forest Roads 514 and 516 (near Creede) in the Rio Grande National Forest, *Hinsdale*, on 21 June 2001 (PO sketch; 2001-69; 7-0). As Merlins nest in southern Wyoming, some expect to eventually find the species breeding in our state, though few would have guessed that we would get a mid-summer record from southwestern Colorado.
- \*AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - *Pluvialis dominica*. The CBRC decided not to review the report of one at Beebe Draw, *Weld*, on 13 September 1999 (BBH; 1999-34) that was recirculated after being suspended from the 1999 circulation (mentioned in first paragraph in Lisowsky 2001). The location and date are entirely consistent with the expected pattern of occurrence of this species in the state. Thus, as the species is not on the main review list, the Committee opted to accept the report without review.
- \*WHIMBREL - *Numenius phaeopus*. One was at Confluence Park, *Delta*, on 2 June 2001 (CD; 2001-135; 7-0). This provides one of few accepted West Slope records for the species.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - *Tryngites subruficollis* (24/9). One was at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 21 September 2001 (DL; 2001-79; 7-0). Though an adult would be unlikely this deep into fall (adults are very early fall migrants), the observer thought that the bird had 5-6 "very dark-centered lower scapulars," suggestive of an adult.
- RED PHALAROPE - *Phalaropus fulicarius* (23/9). One in Definitive Basic was at Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, 14-16 October 2001 (BG, BS; 2001-94; 7-0). A report from earlier in that fall is still making its rounds through the Committee, however, Jackson Res. is rapidly becoming the place to see Red Phalarope in Colorado, with at least four occurrences since 2000.

- MEW GULL - *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* (21/13). An Alternate-plumaged adult graced PaR 30 March - 3 April 2001 (SA, PD; 2001-19; 7-0). This bird provides only the second West Slope record - the first occurred in Mack, Mesa, in November 1992. Apparently, the bird was photographed, but the CBRC did not receive any pictures. We hereby ask the photographer to submit to the CBRC any photographs in which the bird is at all identifiable so that they can be archived - that is the primary purpose of the CBRC.
- #LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - *Larus fuscus* (40/37). One in Second Basic was at CCR 24-25 December 2001 (RP; 2001-145; 7-0). Thanks go to the visiting birder that submitted documentation on this individual, which is something that none of the resident birders did.
- GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL - *Larus glaucescens* (10/6). An individual in First Basic was at ChR, Jefferson, 7-8 March 2001 (KS; 2001-146; 6-1). One in Second Basic was at CCR on 9 March 2001 (RO; 2001-16; 7-0).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - *Larus marinus* (21/16). An adult was at Lake Hasty and JMR on 27 December 2001 (TL; 2001-153; 7-0). This bird is probably the same individual that has been kicking around in the area of JMR and Blue Lake (*Bent/Kiowa*) for the past few years, being seen most often and at all times of year by Duane Nelson.
- \*CASPIAN TERN - *Sterna caspia*. Three seen on Wolford Res., Grand, 27-28 April 2001 (JL; 2001-34; 7-0) provided a first county record.
- #LEAST TERN - *Sterna antillarum*. One was at SCL on 25 June 2001 (SD; 2001-105; 7-0). One wonders where that bird was going, considering the odd date.
- #EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - *Streptopelia decaocto* (12/12). One was performing a display flight at the McDonald's in Montrose, Montrose, on 9 June 2001 (SD; 2001-106; 7-0), providing the first West Slope record. We beseech Colorado birders to continue to document the spread of this species in the state. While the Committee's current official request for documentation concerns all first county records, we would greatly appreciate documentation of first records for each town, particularly if those records add information on occurrence (e.g., occurrences at higher elevation or in different habitat).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE - *Zenaida asiatica* (27/20). An individual was in a back yard in Durango, La Plata, during the "first week of September 2000" (LJ†; 2001-36; 7-0). One was in Colorado Springs, El Paso, on 6 May 2001 (TB; 2001-42; 6-1). Another visited Rye, Pueblo, on 10 November 2001 (DSi; 2001-112; 7-0). Though this species is now seemingly everywhere in the state, the CBRC requests that birders continue to document the explosion of reports.

- LESSER NIGHTHAWK - *Chordeiles acutipennis* (15/11). A typically-early spring migrant was foraging over the Vineland Fire Department Pond, Pueblo, on 16 April 2001 (RV, NK; 2001-28; 6-1).
- BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - *Lampornis clemenciae* (12/4). A female visited a backyard hummer feeder in Golden, Jefferson, only briefly, 30-31 August 2001 (DSc; 2001-124; 7-0).
- MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD - *Eugenes fulgens* (7/4). An adult female was foraging near the dam at Fruitgrowers Reservoir, Delta, on 2 August 2001 (JBy; 2001-67; 7-0), providing a first county and only second accepted West Slope record. Despite the numbers of accepted records for Blue-throated and Magnificent hummingbirds (see parenthetical expressions after each species' scientific name), there are many more reports in Colorado of the latter than of the former - the CBRC simply has not received documentation for most of those reports. We request that observers submit documentation on all Magnificent Hummingbird occurrences in the state, even if they are old reports.
- COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte costae* (1/1). A male that visited CVCG 17-18 May 2001 was seen by many and provided the state's first record (RD†, SD, RH v, SMe; 2001-46; 7-0). Though none of the reporters considered hybrid Anna's x Costa's Hummingbird in their documentations (a form that really ought to be considered when looking at a potential Costa's or Anna's in Colorado), the video and video captures provided did the job of eliminating that form from consideration. We refer readers requiring more details to Fontaine and Dinsmore (2002). There were two unfortunate aspects to this record. The first was that no one seems to have gotten the names of the Denver couple that found the bird (if anyone out there knows this, please provide that information to the authors) and that the authors of this article arrived a couple hours too late on the 18th to see the bird!
- ACORN WOODPECKER - *Melanerpes formicivorus* (8/8). The colony near Durango, La Plata, continues and we received reports of sightings of up to eight birds there on 18 January 2001 (PG, RH; 2001-5; 7-0). Two males seen along US 160 west of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta, on 10 June 2001 (SD, GGB; 2001-107; 7-0) provided that county's first record. Presumably, there are more Acorn Woodpeckers yet unfound in that corner of the state, as suitable habitat is plentiful and we doubt that all present in the state are in places where birders have gone.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER - *Empidonax alnorum* (11/4). Leatherman found one at Jumbo SWA, Sedgwick, on 19 May 2001 (DL; 2001-80; 7-0). Though the bird was not calling (a clincher trait in many observations), the



observer described the plumage characteristics well and all committee members felt that all other *Empidonax*, especially Willow Flycatcher, were eliminated by those details.

#BLACK PHOEBE - *Sayornis nigricans* (23/14). As evidence of the species' continued expansion northward into Colorado, one was near Grand Junction, *Mesa*, on 21 August 2001 (LA; 2001-72; 7-0).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (19/8). This species also appears to be expanding its range northward, as the committee accepted five records in 2001 alone. The first was of a male at Belmar Park, *Jefferson*, on 5 April (KS, LS†; 2001-148; 7-0). A female was just east of the ChR marina, *Douglas*, on 12 April (RO; 2001-25; 7-0) and the following day, a male enlivened Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca* (DFi; 2001-149; 7-0). A male and a female were also observed at a ranch residence roughly 15 miles south-southwest of Springfield, *Baca*, and were present at least 17-23 April 2001 (MI, TL, BKP; 2001-29; 7-0). Finally, a paired male and female, as well as an additional male, were found at the Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, between at least 14 April and 14 June (DE, RH, KS, TS; 2001-30; 7-0). This is the location where a mated pair was present in 2000. The CBRC would again like to point out that part of Cottonwood Canyon, and, seemingly, the part that attracts most of the rarities (the side canyon across from the camping area), is in *Las Animas*. Hopefully, the reporter of the Cottonwood Canyon Vermilion Flycatcher (above) will let us know whether the reported county was correct or not.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - *Tyrannus forficatus* (17/12). One, sex unknown, was at Monte Vista NWR, *Rio Grande*, on 5 July 2001 (JR, 2001-86; 7-0). A female was about 20 miles west of the Kansas border on Road M in *Baca* on 29 August 2001 (TH; 2001-74; 7-0).

#WHITE-EYED VIREO - *Vireo griseus* (34/26). One was in the Ken Caryl valley, Littleton, *Jefferson*, on 13 May 2001 (SMa†; 2001-59; 7-0). Another was near the Carrizo Picnic Area on the Comanche National Grassland, *Baca*, 3 June 2001 (RB; 2001-62; 7-0). Due to the number of accepted records on the eastern plains in Colorado, the CBRC has removed this species from the main review list (Semo et al. 2002).

#YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - *Vireo flavifrons* (30/23). One was at the FLWE 22 April 2001 (TL, LS†, MJ, BKP; 2001-121; 7-0). A single observer submitted good details of a bird observed at the Lamar Cemetery, *Prowers*, on 12 May 2001 (RO; 2001-43; 7-0).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - *Vireo philadelphicus* (25/12). One, seen and described well, was below the dam of Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 5 October, 2001 (DL; 2001-130; 7-0).

\*WESTERN SCRUB-JAY - *Apelocoma californica*. A Western Scrub-Jay

was documented and photographed at a feeder in Dillon, *Summit*, (EIB, EmB†; 2001-71; 7-0) for a first county record. The reporters are sisters who were 12 years old at the time they documented this bird. They are off to a good start as contributing members of Colorado's birding community.

\*JUNIPER TITMOUSE - *Baeolophus ridgwayi*. A Juniper Titmouse was near the San Luis Hills, east of Manassa, *Conejos*, on 9 March 2001, and may represent the first San Luis Valley record in over 20 years (JR; 2001-87; 7-0).

#CAROLINA WREN - *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (27/15). One was at Rock Canyon, below PR dam, *Pueblo*, on 10 April 2001 (BKP; 2001-21; 7-0). Surprisingly, another, believed to be a different bird, was found just east of Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, on 12 April 2001 (BKP; 2001-22; 7-0). *Pueblo* remained a hotbed of Carolina Wren occurrences in 2001 when one visited the western portion of Greenhorn Meadows Park in Colorado City on 30 October (DSi; 2001-98; 7-0). A fourth bird was present on 24 December along West Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs, *El Paso* (ASm; 2001-56; 7-0). Due to the number of accepted records on the eastern plains in Colorado, the CBRC has removed this species from the main review list (Semo et al. 2002).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - *Catharus minimus* (34/22). The CBRC received two excellent documentations for two birds, including drawings of one, observed at LCC on 3 May 2001 (TL, MI; 2001-50; 7-0). One of the two birds gave a number of call notes, helping to confirm the identification. Another bird was well-described near the "town" of Big Ben, *Bent*, also on 3 May 2001 (TL; 2001-151; 7-0).

WOOD THRUSH - *Hylocichla mustelina* (16/4). One well-described individual was at Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 13 October 2001 (DL; 2001-131; 7-0).

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus naevius* (18/11). The CBRC was busy accepting three Varied Thrush documentations in the 2001 circulation. The first was of a female observed in southwestern Boulder, *Boulder*, on the Boulder Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 22 December 2001 and still present on the 25<sup>th</sup> when it was finally documented (BS†, LS†; 2001-133; 7-0). The second was a first-year male in Durango, *La Plata*, 26 December 2000 - 2 January 2001 (JBy; 2001-141; 7-0). The third Varied Thrush was another female videotaped and photographed at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, between 16 and 23 October, 2001 (HK, SMe †, LS †, RH v, DL; 2001-90; 7-0). Unfortunately, the documentation that should have been required for the CBC occurrence was not submitted to the Committee. The CBRC repeats its plea of the previous year (Leukering and Wood 2002) for CBC compilers to send copies of all CBC documentation to the Committee.

There is no particular guarantee that those important documents will be archived without submission to the CBRC.

- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora pinus* (37/19). The CBRC accepted four reports of male Blue-winged Warblers in 2001. The first was early at the FLWE on 22 April 2001 (TL, LS v, MJ, BKP; 2001-122; 7-0). The next did not occur for nearly a month, but was also at FLWE, on 20 May 2001 (LS; 2001-166; 7-0). Harrison captured and banded a male at Lykins Gulch, *Boulder*, on 24 May 2001 (JH†; 2001-65; 7-0). The last of a busy spring season was in Rye, *Pueblo*, on 29 May 2001 (DSi; 2001-52; 7-0). Due to the number of accepted records on the eastern plains in Colorado, the CBRC has removed this species from the main review list (Semo et al. 2002).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora chrysoptera* (32/13). *Jefferson* hosted a Golden-winged when a male sang as if on territory at Red Rocks Park, 5-6 June 2001 (NG, KS, CLW v; 2001-58; 7-0).
- \*NORTHERN PARULA - *Parula americana*. A male was at Home Lake, *Rio Grande*, on 29 April 2001 (JR; 2001-88; 7-0).
- \*CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - *Dendroica pensylvanica*. For a rare San Luis Valley record, an adult male sang persistently in California Gulch, about 30 miles west of La Garita, *Saguache*, 25-30 June 2001 (JR v; 2001-89; 7-0). Though the bird was territorial, driving off other species, the observer found no evidence to indicate that the bird was mated.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER - *Dendroica tigrina* (21/6). A male Cape May Warbler was seen and photographed at the Denver Zoo, *Denver*, on 25 February 2001 (KR†; 2001-15; 7-0). Though the bird probably wintered at the site, we received no other reports of the bird. When we write “photographed,” we are not referring to the typical distant, fuzzy, only-for-documentation-purposes “photographed” typical of submissions to the CBRC on rare warblers (see the back cover)!
- \*MAGNOLIA WARBLER - *Dendroica magnolia*. On the early side and unusual for the West Slope, a basic-plumaged male was at the footbridge at the south end of the reservoir at Ridgway SP, *Ouray*, on 10 August 2001 (MA; 2001-73; 7-0).
- \*BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - *Dendroica caerulescens*. A male enlivened the Bar NI Ranch, *Las Animas*, on 14 July 2001 (HK; 2001-66; 7-0); both the location (in the foothills) and the date were odd. Another male visited the CGC on 14 October 2001 (JR†; 2001-99; 7-0).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - *Dendroica fusca* (36/17). A female was at Flagler SWA, *Kit Carson*, on 25 May 2001. The reporter documented the bird quite well and also included an adequate drawing of the bird (DFa sketch; 2001-159; 7-0).

- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - *Dendroica dominica* (25/11). A male was at Lake Hasty Campground on 15 April 2001, *Bent*, and was documented by three observers from New Jersey (AB, KL, MS; 2001-31; 7-0). This record points out the value of multiple documentations submitted for rarities, as it was the combination of information from the three documentations that enabled the CBRC to vote to accept the record. All observers discussed how Grace's Warbler, which the observers might have preferred, was eliminated. Another Yellow-throated Warbler, probably a male, was seen on the south side of Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, 11-12 May 2001 (RO, JK; 2001-44; 7-0).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER - *Dendroica discolor* (21/14). A female was observed along the south side of Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, 6-7 May 2001 (PG, RO; 2001-40; 7-0). Disappointing was that an additional seven very experienced birders apparently also saw the bird, but failed to provide details and neither of the reports indicated who the finder is. An even more unusual sighting of this species was the one seen, and excellently documented with a sketch, along the Gunnison River in *Mesa* on 10 August 2001 (LA sketch; 2001-68; 7-0).
- \*PALM WARBLER - *Dendroica palmarum*. West Slope records of Palm Warbler are quite unusual, so the individual referable to the western race, *palmarum*, observed at PaR, 4-7 October 2001 (SA; 2001-110; 7-0) was of more-than-passing interest.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - *Dendroica castanea* (32/7). One, a probable first-year male, was found near the Colorado City Community Center in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 7-9 September 2001 (DSi; 2001-76; 7-0). The bird was apparently observed by two other observers, though the CBRC received only a single documentation.
- \*BLACKPOLL WARBLER - *Dendroica striata*. We accepted two records of Blackpoll Warbler west of the Front Range in the 2001 circulation: a male in Dinosaur National Park, *Moffat*, on 9 June 2001 (CD, BW; 2001-137; 7-0) and one of unknown age and sex at the CGC 13-14 October 2001 (JR, 2001-100; 7-0).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - *Protonotaria citrea* (39/22). One brightened a marsh in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 10 May 2001 (DSi; 2001-51; 7-0). A female observed at PaR on 3 October 2001 (SA; 2001-111; 7-0) provided a very rare West Slope record. Due to the number of accepted records on the eastern plains in Colorado, the CBRC has removed this species from the main review list (Semo et al. 2002).
- #WORM-EATING WARBLER - *Helmitheros vermivorus* (28/18). One graced Muir Springs Park, *Morgan*, on 5 June 2001 (RB; 2001-63; 7-0). Another at the CGC 14-16 October 2001 (JR; 2001-101; 7-0) provided the first San Luis Valley record. Due to the number of accepted

records on the eastern plains in Colorado, the CBRC has removed this species from the main review list (Semo et al. 2002).

KENTUCKY WARBLER - *Oporornis formosus* (28/12). A great find for the West Slope was a male observed along the San Miguel River, two miles upstream from Uravan, *Montrose*, on 30 May 2001 (CD; 2001-138; 7-0).

\*HOODED WARBLER - *Wilsonia citrina*. A male visited the Dolores River near Pleasant View, *Dolores*, on 9 June 2001 (PO; 2001-70; 7-0), providing a rare West Slope record.

\*SUMMER TANAGER - *Piranga rubra*. The CBRC received documentation on a bird found dead in the snow on Apple Valley Road, Lyons, *Boulder*, on 19 December 1996 (PB, TE†, KB; 2001-37; 6-1) on the BoulderCBC.

SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea* (24/13). We received documentation (consisting almost solely of a photograph) of a Scarlet Tanager found dead in Boulder, *Boulder* (VD, TE†; 2001-38; 6-1). The bird was turned into the Greenwood Rehab Center where the submitters viewed and photographed the bird on 19 November 1996, after the bird had already been prepared as a specimen. Though the reporters provided the original location (near the intersection of Aurora and 30<sup>th</sup>), we know not who found the bird or on what date. A well-documented male visited the FLWE on 19 May 2001 (DFa: 2001-160; 7-0).

\*FIELD SPARROW - *Spizella pusilla*. Quite unusual for the West Slope and even more unusual for the date, was the bird observed at Highline SP, *Mesa*, on 9 January 1993 (CD; 2001-139; 7-0).

\*SAVANNAH SPARROW - *Passerculus sandwichensis*. A Savannah Sparrow found at the FLWE on 15 January 2001 was described well and represents a rare winter record for the state (DL; 2001-81; 7-0).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - *Ammodramus leconteii* (10/5). At least three birds were found in a grassy wet area on the north side of JMR (DL; 2001-82; 7-0). Other observers later in the season counted as many as eight Le Conte's at this location, though no one else submitted details to the Committee. The marshes associated with FLWE seem to be a regular wintering location for a small population of this species.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW - *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (16/10). Two observers provided good details on an adult at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*, present on 1 January 2001 (DFa, JBH; 2001-17; 7-0). The bird, which spent the winter at the site, was apparently found at least as early as 25 December 2000, though the CBRC received no documentation from the finder. Another adult graced a yard in Boulder, *Boulder*, on 1 November 2001 (BM, CM; 2001-024; 6-1).

- \*BALTIMORE ORIOLE - *Icterus galbula*. An adult male Baltimore Oriole visited a residence in Durango, *La Plata*, 10-11 May 2001 (CS†; 2001-165; 7-0) for a rare West Slope record.
- \*ORCHARD ORIOLE - *Icterus spurius*. An adult male observed at the Escalante SWA near Delta, *Delta*, on 20 May 2001 represented a rare record for the West Slope (MH; 2001-12; 6-1).
- PURPLE FINCH - *Carpodacus purpureus* (30/9). A female-plumaged individual was observed and photographed at a residence in Vancorum, near Naturita, *Montrose*, 15 November - 2 December 2001 (CD†; 2001-140; 7-0). The description and photographs provided were sufficient to eliminate Cassin's Finch from consideration.

### Part II: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

- EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope* (23/9). A male was reported at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 3 April 2001 (2001-23; 1-6). The description of the head was more than adequate, but the body was described as being "almost identical to" that of "American Wigeon." Since Eurasian Wigeons have gray sides and American Wigeons pinkish-orange sides, the Committee felt that, if the description was accurate, the bird was probably a hybrid. Unfortunately, the observer did not discuss that possibility in the similar species section of the form.
- \*SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. The CBRC found the description of an individual at Lower Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on 3 June 2001 (2001-61; 0-7) quite confusing. The observer had virtually no previous experience with dowitchers and seemed to put too much weight on the fact that the bird had a white belly. However, all other features described were consistent with an Alternate-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher and many were inconsistent with an identification of Short-billed. The bird may well have been a Long-billed in First Alternate, a plumage that is maddeningly variable in shorebirds, with the late date providing support for that theory.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL - *Larus ridibundus* (4/2). An individual in Alternate plumage was reported and widely seen at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, in early April 2001. However, only one observer submitted details, on an 11 April sighting (2001-24; 2-5), to the Committee. While the extensive written details and nice sketch provided were strongly suggestive, some details provided caused many members of the CBRC to vote to not accept the identification. Particularly disconcerting to the Committee was the head color, described as "either a very dark gray or a dark brownish-gray, depending on the light." This statement was of concern, as the species, despite its name, has a chocolate brown hood in Alternate plumage and that color is very obvious.

Unfortunately, the reporter did not see the bird fly, so did not see the distinctive wing pattern. Additionally, the wingtips were described as pure black, but the reporter did not state whether both the underside and upperside of the wingtip was black or not. So, while the bird may well have been a Black-headed Gull, and other reputable birders saw the individual, the details do not prove the case, something particularly critical for such a rare species in the state.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - *Streptopelia decaocto* (12/12). Though details on a bird seen in Salida, *Chaffee*, on 11 December 2001 (2001-129; 3-4) were suggestive of this species, some members of the Committee felt that the reporter did not successfully eliminate a hybrid Eurasian Collared-Dove x Ringed Turtle-Dove in the details provided. We would like to impress on dove watchers that this hybrid combination is known in the state and needs to be considered, particularly for what would have been a first county record. We realize that the species continues to be seen in Salida and that the bird was probably correctly identified; the details just did not prove it.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte anna* (7/2). The CBRC did not accept as correctly identified an adult female reported at Woodland Park, *Teller*, 10-13 July 2001 (2001-154; 0-7). Though the bird was twice described as large or very large, the reporter did not provide any specifics (e.g., "quarter again as big as the female Broad-tailed nearby") and the few plumage details provided, particularly for a potential first state record, did not allow the Committee to separate the bird from some of the regular species of hummingbirds, to say nothing of other vagrant species.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE - *Baelophus wollweberi*. A single observer documented a bird observed on 27 May 2001 at Rabbit Valley, *Mesa*, as a Bridled Titmouse (2001-55; 1-6). The description was of a typical titmouse-sized bird that projected an impression of an oversized crest (blackish), which it raised/lowered slightly, arising from the top rear of the head. The face had striking black marks on whitish cheeks. Unfortunately, the observer provided no additional description and a majority of committee members felt that the submission did not adequately describe a Bridled Titmouse, for which there are no accepted records for the state. Bridled Titmice are sedentary residents of the Sierra Madre Occidental and there is no evidence of any pattern of vagrancy by the species. Mountain Chickadees, which the description could suggest, can raise the rear crown feathers when agitated which may cause the impression of a slight crest.

\*NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - *Mimus polyglottos*. A report of an individual in Salida, *Chaffee*, on 29 January 2001 would have provided a very

interesting winter record, but was not accepted (2001-150; 2-5). The observer noted that the bird had a long, gray tail, gray wings and head, and white in the wings, which is suggestive of Northern Mockingbird. Unfortunately, that description can also suggest Northern Shrike, which would be more likely at that location in winter than would Northern Mockingbird. Because of the brief documentation and the lack of discussion on why other similarly-appearing species were eliminated from consideration, most committee members could not accept this record.

**FIELDFARE** - *Turdus pilaris*. The majority of committee members felt that the documentation of a bird observed at a home in Monument, *El Paso*, on 6 March 2001 (2001-14; 2-5) did not provide enough details to allow the CBRC to accept this observation as a first state and regional record. Though the bird was observed at close range, the observation was very brief and the observer used no optics and did not provide a detailed description of the bird, including elimination of other similarly-appearing species.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** - *Anthus spragueii* (5/1). A single observer reported on a bird observed on 3 August 2001 on Mount Democrat, *Park*, and identified as a Sprague's Pipit (2001-163; 0-7). All committee members felt that the description was too brief to adequately describe the species. Sprague's Pipit, a plains species, has been reported from alpine areas in Colorado in late summer in the past, though none of these reports has been accepted as such. The most plausible culprits that birders oftentimes misidentify as Sprague's Pipits from such locales include juvenile Horned Larks and, especially, juvenile- or basic-plumaged American Pipits, which are typically not represented in most field guides. The time of year reported would also be highly unusual for Sprague's Pipits since they should be nesting on the northern Great Plains. A description from the observer regarding the mantle or the extent of white in the outer rectrices would be an essential component in any report of this species in Colorado.

**\*PALM WARBLER** - *Dendroica palmarum*. An experienced birder submitted details on a Palm Warbler at the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery, *Gunnison*, on 10 July 2001 (2001-108; 1-6). However, the details provided were very brief and failed to fully describe the bird and eliminate other similarly-appearing species, especially Virginia's Warbler, which has rufous on the crown and yellow on the chest and the vent area.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** - *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (16/10). An immature was reported from ChR, *Jefferson*, on 16 September 2001 (2001-128; 3-4). The combination of a date that was a bit early for



Golden-crowned in Colorado and a too-brief and confusing description caused the Committee to not accept this report.

\***LAZULI BUNTING** - *Passerina amoena*. A single observer reported a male in alternate plumage from Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 14 January 2001 (2001-4; 2-5). Though the plumage description was certainly suggestive of an alternate-plumaged male Lazuli Bunting, the very brief details left the majority of committee members unconvinced. Of greatest issue was the mention that the bird in question was larger than a bluebird; Lazuli Buntings are smaller than bluebirds. The observer had also mentioned that the bird was approximately five inches in length, which contradicted the other comment about being larger than a bluebird. Also of question was the comment from the observer that the breast faded to dingy white near rump, which is not a Lazuli Bunting trait. Because of insufficient and contradictory details, the Committee was compelled to not accept this record, though the observation is certainly intriguing.

### **Part III: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN**

**RUDDY SHELDUCK** - *Tadorna ferruginea*. A male visited SL on 4 October 2001 (2001-7; 0-7). Though the bird was identifiably photographed by the reporter, the CBRC felt that the lack of a pattern of occurrence precluded accepting this report as the first state record. The reporter realized that this report would not be accepted, but submitted it mainly to provide evidence of the occurrence for archival purposes. Though virtually all reports of this species in the New World probably pertain to escapees, a thoroughly documented report of seven in Nunavut (Allard et al. 2001) suggests the possibility that Ruddy Shelduck might arrive in the New World on its own and that reports should not simply be rejected out of hand.

### **Reporters and Cited Observers**

Mymm Ackley, Susan Allerton, Larry Arnold, G. Gordon Brown, Ken Baker, Phyllis Baker, Elizabeth Bartell (EIB), Emily Bartell (EmB), Robert Batchelder, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Terence Berger, Jim Berry, Adrian Binns, Carol Cushman, Brenda Davidson-Shaddux, Peter Derven, Coen Dexter, Ruth Dick, Steve Dinsmore, Virginia Dionigi, David Elwonger, Tony Esposito, Doug Faulkner (DFa), Dick Filby (DFi), Peter Gent, Brian Gibbons, Nancy Gobris, Pat Gould, Joe Harrison, J.B. Hayes (JBH), Mike Henwood, Tyler Hicks, Rachel Hopper, Marshall Iliff, Mark Janos, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Nick Komar, Dave Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Jim Liewer, Karl Lukens, Stan Majlinger (SMa), Steve Messick (SMe), Kent Nelson, Pat O'Donnell, Ric Olson, Arvind Panjabi, Robert Parsons, Brandon K. Percival, John Rawinski, Aileen Roberts,

Kenneth Rush, Bill Schmoker, Karleen Schofield, Dick Schottler, Martin Selzer, Larry Semo, Tom Shane, Dave Silverman, Andrew Smith (ASm), David Snider, Cynthia Stengel, Beverly Tomberlin, Guy Tomberlin, Randy Vernon, Brenda Wright, Christopher L. Wood.

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