

## REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1996 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 1996. There were 114 records of 78 species submitted by 63 observers that were evaluated by the RC. Six of the reports were accompanied by photographs, one with a videotape and 12 with sketches or field drawings. Of the 114 records, 111 received definitive votes by the RC through initial circulation and re-circulation and are presented here. Three records, 25-96-39 Common Ground-Dove, 51-96-65 White-eyed Vireo, and 19-86-40 Short-billed Dowitcher (see Bunn 1988) received non-definitive votes. As per RC by-laws, these records will be discussed and resolved at a meeting of the Committee, and results will be published in a subsequent RC report. Eighty-nine of the 111 definitive records were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 80%. The majority of records are from birds observed in 1996. Per RC bylaws, all "accepted" records received 7-0 (all seven RC members voted to accept) or 6-1 votes to accept either on the initial circulation or 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 re-circulation.

Two species, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Buff-breasted Flycatcher, are added to the Colorado state list as a result of the 1996 circulation and are described in this report. Other potential first state records (Mute Swan, Wilson's Plover, Heermann's Gull, Great Gray Owl, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Black-capped Vireo, and Hoary Redpoll) were not accepted and are described in this report as well. The Colorado state list stands at 460 species following these actions and with the additions of Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) and Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) due to the split of Solitary Vireo (previously *Vireo solitarius*), described in the 41st Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* (Janos 1997b). Highlights of this report include one Brown Pelican, four Glossy Ibises, one Long-billed Murrelet, one Hermit Warbler, one Louisiana Waterthrush, one Connecticut Warbler, and one Pyrrhuloxia.

### Committee News

The Committee is in the process of computerizing the log of records submitted to the RC. This log will be made available to anyone wishing to access the

historical RC data. A new field checklist of the birds of Colorado is being published with the assistance of the American Birding Association. A minor procedural change was made to the RC by-laws in the accessioning of records and will be described in the next report.

Records of interest currently under review by the RC for 1997 include Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Tufted Duck (2; potential first and second state records), Crested Caracara (potential first state record), Royal Tern (potential first state record), Arctic Tern (2), Eurasian Collared-Dove (new location), Chuck-Will's Widow (potential first state record), Dusky-capped Flycatcher (2), Tropical Kingbird (potential first state record), and Cerulean Warbler.

The committee's membership at the close of the 1997 was: Peter Gent, Mark Janos (chairman), Joey Kellner, Bill Lisowsky, Bob Righter, Dick Schottler, and Vic Zerbi. With the endorsement of the RC, Joe Mammoser of Fort Collins and John Rawinski of Monte Vista were appointed by the Board of the Colorado Field Ornithologists at the end of 1997 to fill Peter Gent's and Dick Schottler's expired terms on the RC. John and Joe will serve from 1998-2000. Bob Righter agreed to extend his service for one additional year and his term will expire at the end of 1998.

#### 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 for all rare birds, including species on its review list (Janos 1998), unusual occurrences by date or location, and species previously unrecorded in Colorado. Please send documentation of rare birds to either: Mark Janos, CFO RC 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, Colorado 80205-5798.

#### Report Format

This report is divided into three parts. Part 1 consists of records that were accepted, and Parts 2 and 3 consist of records that were not accepted. Species are listed in current A.O.U. taxonomic order. Within a given species account, records are listed chronologically by the first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is the bird's location (including county), date(s) of occurrence, the initials of observers who submitted reports, and the record's accession number. The initials of the reporting observer who discovered the bird are underlined if we had that information. The date or span of dates during which the bird(s) was seen follow the submitted record date(s). Records

are sight records unless otherwise noted. An asterisk (\*) prior to a species' name indicates that it is not currently on the RC's review list. For species with 15 or fewer records in Colorado, the number in parentheses following the species' name is the number of records accepted by the RC through this reporting period.

#### Abbreviations used in the report

Co. and Cos. (County and Counties); CP (City Park); L. (Lake); Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO); DFO (Denver Field Ornithologists); NP (National Park); NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); R. (River); Res. (Reservoir); SP (State Park); SWA (State Wildlife Area).

#### PART 1: RECORDS ACCEPTED

**RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*). A juvenile bird was at L. Holbrook (Otero Co.) 24 Nov 1996 (MJ; 1-96-1).

\***PACIFIC LOON** (*Gavia pacifica*). A basic-plumaged adult was at Green Mountain Res. (Summit Co.) on 23 Oct 1996 (KP; 1-96-2). This species is not on the CFO review list but this bird was found at 7947 feet in altitude, which is high for the species.

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*) (11). A juvenile bird was at Rawhide Res. (Larimer Co.) on 3 Jan 1991 (MRo; 1-96-3).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*). An adult in breeding plumage was described from L. Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 26 May 1996 (MJ; 2-96-4).

**BROWN PELICAN** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (9). An immature bird was observed at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 21 August 1996 (JK; 3-96-5).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nyctanassa violacea*). A sub-adult bird was observed by many observers during a DFO field trip at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 19 May 1996 (BR; 5-96-6).

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (11). There were four accepted records in 1996, following three accepted records in 1995. In Colorado, there have been 11 accepted records for this species, seven of which occurred in the 1995-1996 period. A single, breeding-plumaged bird was at Barr L. (Adams Co.) on May 3-4, 1996 (JT; 7-96-8). Another breeding-plumaged adult was near Boone (Pueblo Co.) on 4 May 1996 (MJ; 7-96-9). Janos found another adult on 20 May 1996 at Nee Noshe Res. in Kiowa Co. (MJ; 7-96-10). The last 1996 record was a breeding-plumaged adult near Sterling (Logan Co.) on 27 May 1996 (DL, JM; sketch; 7-96-7).

**BRANT** (*Branta bernicla*; *nigricans* group) (12). One "Black" Brant adult was at Barr L. (Adams Co.) on 28 Oct 1996 (JRe; sketches; 8-96-13).

\***SURF SCOTER** (*Melanitta perspicillata*). An adult female Surf Scoter was near Vineland (Pueblo Co.) on 5 Jun 1988 (VT; 8-96-14). This species is no longer on the Colorado state review list but the unusual date prompted circulation of this record.

\***PIPING PLOVER** (*Charadrius melodus*). A breeding-plumaged male was at Franz L. (Chaffee Co.) on 17 May 1986 (RA; 18-86-45) (see Bunn 1988).

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). Two winter-plumaged adults were discovered at Duck L. (Larimer Co.) on 22-25 Oct 1996 (BL, PLi, JM; 21-96-17).

**POMARINE JAEGER** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (15). This well-studied juvenile was present at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) in mid-November. Only one report (19 Nov 1996) was received and it was accompanied by an excellent videotape. Although variously reported as a Parasitic or Pomarine Jaeger at the time of observation, the videotape supported the identification of Pomarine and allowed the RC members to vote to accept (JV; videotape; 22-96-18).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (6). This adult, accessioned as record number 22-96-20, was observed by RO at Milton Res. (Weld Co.) on 4 and 6 Sep 1995. There was an adult at Barr L. (Adams Co.) on 10-14 Sep 1995 that was previously accepted as record number 22-95-35 (Janos 1997a). Most committee members felt that these two records pertained to the same individual, thus this report will be added to the previously mentioned report, and together they will be accessioned as 22-95-35. There are still 6 accepted records for Colorado.

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*) (13). There were two accepted records in the 1996 batch. The first was from 6 Oct 1988 at Union Res. (Weld Co.). The bird was a winter-plumaged adult (DL; 23-96-23). The second record was submitted by Paul Lehman and Shawneen Finnegan; the bird was in worn, first-summer plumage and occurred at Walden Res. (Jackson Co.) on 14 Jun 1996 (SF, PL; photos; field sketches; 23-96-22).

**MEW GULL** (*Larus canus*) (13). A winter-plumaged adult was at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 2 Nov 1996 (JRe; 23-96-25).

\***GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*). A faded, first- or second-winter bird was present at Highline L. (Mesa Co.) on 4 Nov 1996 (RL; 23-96-26). There may be only one previously documented record from the West Slope.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*) (13). The only record submitted was for the Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) bird, which appeared for the fifth consecutive winter from 21-31 Dec 1996 (and beyond) (MJ; 23-96-27).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*). There were four accepted records for 1996: an immature bird at Douglas Res. (Larimer Co.) on 23 and 27 Nov 1996 (BL; 23-96-29); an immature at Long Pond (Larimer Co.) on 24 Nov 1996 (TL; 23-96-30); an immature at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 28 Nov 1996 (TL; 23-96-31); and an immature seen during a DFO field trip on 14 Dec 1996 at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. (MJ; 23-96-32).

**LONG-BILLED MURRELET** (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (2). A brief visit by this individual was one of the highlights of Colorado birding in 1996. Like the Ancient Murrelet that appeared in Colorado in 1995, this bird was a "one-day wonder;" also like the 1995 bird, this one was discovered at Chatfield Res. by Joey Kellner. The single report described a winter-plumaged adult at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co.) on 2 Nov 1996 (JK; field sketches; 24-96-33). The detailed description included: a lack of white lores, white sides to the breast, a pale patch at the rear on each side of the head, and a straight border between the black face and white neck. Thus, like other inland, North American records, this record pertains to Long-billed Murrelet (*B. perdix*), not Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) (see Janos 1997b).

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (1). This report adds Eurasian Collared-Dove to the Colorado state list. A colony of at least 11 birds is living and breeding near Rocky Ford (Otero Co.). Reported dates were from 11 July - 7 Dec 1996 (PG, MJ; photo; 25-96-34), although apparently local residents have been aware of this colony since 1995. These records definitely pertain to Eurasian Collared-Dove and not Ringed Turtle-Dove. The birds are wary, unbanded, and free-flying. Inquiries have not revealed anyone breeding or keeping Eurasian Collared-Doves in the local area. In contrast to the Ringed Turtle-Dove, this species is rarely kept in captivity and apparently there has been no legal importation of collared-doves into the United States for more than 30 years. Eurasian Collared-Dove has undergone an explosive expansion of its range in this century. It colonized Europe and Great Britain in the last 65 years, and it reached Iceland in 1971. Although it is not known for sure how it reached the Bahama Islands, it was present there in 1975. It had colonized Florida, apparently through natural means, by the mid-1980s, and it has appeared sporadically in locations north and west of its known range in Florida during the last 12 years. The species' natural direction of expansion has been westward and northward. Besides Colorado, it has recently occurred in Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Iowa. The species' typical pattern of expansion has been to "hop-scotch" westward quite suddenly over several hundred miles and then "back-fill" the area in between for several years before hop-scotching westward again. (For more information on this species' expansion and identification see Blackshaw 1988, Smith 1987, and White 1986). The recent appearance in Colorado fits with the hop-scotching

pattern. Although wild origin is very difficult to "prove," this species' occurrence is very likely due to natural expansion rather than as a result of caged birds escaping into the wild. As of this writing (June 1998), the colony near Rocky Ford is persisting. The RC has heard rumors about another Eurasian Collared-Dove in the Walsh area (Baca Co.) that pre-dates this 1996 report, and of a bird seen in the Greeley area (Weld Co.) on 30 Dec 1995 (Himmel 1996). In addition, two birds were reportedly photographed by a commercial birding-tour group in Campo (Baca Co.) in March 1997 and seen again there in May 1998, and a bird(s) was reported in Lamar (Prowers Co.) the first week of May 1997 (V. Zerbi, personal communication). Finally, a bird was reported from Holly (Prowers Co.) in May 1998. Unfortunately, the RC has not yet received any written reports of these occurrences. A single report from the Colorado Front Range in 1997 is currently in circulation for RC review.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*). There was a flurry of accepted records of this species in 1996: a single bird at a Pueblo West (Pueblo Co.) backyard on 17 May 1996 (MJ; 25-96-36); another singleton at a feeder in Monte Vista (Rio Grande Co.) on 26 May 1996 (LC; 25-96-37); and one bird "in the wild" at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co.) on 23 Oct 1996 (JK; 25-96-38).

**BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Lampornis clemenciae*) (11). This report was of a single male that was seen briefly at a feeder in Colorado Springs (El Paso Co.) on 16 Jun 1996 (MH; 31-96-42).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax alnorum*) (10). A single bird was seen and heard singing in a brushy area near Waterton (Jefferson Co.) on 25 June, 1996 (DS; 34-96-44).

\***LEAST FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax minimus*). A single bird -- singing incessantly -- was described from Brush Creek valley, about five miles southeast of Eagle (Eagle Co.) on 19 Jun 1996 (JMe; 34-96-45). Although this species is not on the RC's current review list, this species' occurrence in the mountains was unusual.

**BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) (1). This record adds Buff-breasted Flycatcher to the Colorado state list. Three observers saw a single bird singing and calling during migration (Prather 1992). The bird was at Hannah Ranch SWA (El Paso Co.) on 19 May 1991 (JC, BPr, JP; 34-91-47) (see Nelson 1993). The committee solicited reviews and received brief comments by Will Russell and Dave Stejskal of Arizona. Identification of Empids outside of their range in migration is always risky. Buff-breasted Flycatcher is fairly distinctive however, and the observers clearly described the small size, short tail, and very bright buff underparts. The bird sang a three-note "chicky-whew" song. Prior to 1920, this species bred more commonly in southern and even central Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1960).

Although there is no clear pattern of vagrancy, the bird was seen during a period of strong southerly winds.

**BLACK PHOEBE** (*Sayornis nigricans*) (15). An adult feeding a fledgling was discovered along the San Miguel R. (Montrose Co.) on 18 Jul 1996 (TL; 34-96-46). A single bird was suspected of breeding along the Rio Grande R. in Conjeos and Costilla Cos. (HK, UK; 34-96-47).

\***EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*). This record was of a single adult near Colbran (Mesa Co.) on 20 Oct 1996 (RL, KP; sketches; 34-96-48). The unusual date and location of this record prompted review.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (5). A single adult was near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 13 May 1996 (DSi; sketch; 34-96-49). An adult male was observed during an October "big day" attempt near Las Animas (Bent Co.) on 5 Oct 1996 (AV; 34-96-50).

\***PURPLE MARTIN** (*Progne subis*). A female was in an unusual location at Jumbo Res. (Sedgwick Co.) on 27 May 1996 (DL; 36-96-51).

**CAROLINA WREN** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). A singing adult found in a Denver backyard (Denver Co.) on 14 and 16 Apr 1996 yields yet another urban Denver record (HK, UK, WW; 42-96-52).

\***WINTER WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). A single bird was found on the unusual date of 21 Aug 1996 near Sanford in Conejos Co. (PSS; 42-96-53).

**SEDGE WREN** (*Cistothorus platensis*) (14). A single, migrant bird was in the wet, weedy edge of John Martin Res. marsh (Bent Co.) on 2 Nov 1996 (MJ; 42-96-54). Another bird was seen along the edge of a cattail marsh at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 12 Dec 1996 (KS; 42-96-55).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** (*Catharus minimus*). There were four accepted records of this species for 1996. The first was a single bird on 27 Apr 1996 at L. Henry in Crowley Co. (MJ; 44-96-56). Another single bird was at Lamar CP (Prowers Co.) on 28 Apr 1996 (MJ; 44-96-57). A third bird was behind Lamar Community College along Willow Creek (Prowers Co.) on 12 May 1996 (MJ; 44-96-59). The final record was a single bird near Highway 71 in Lincoln Co. on 27 May 1996 (CW; 44-96-60). RC members did not feel that these birds could have been Bicknell's Thrushes (*C. bicknelli*) (see McLaren 1995).

**VARIED THRUSH** (*Ixoreus naevius*). An adult was in a suburban backyard in Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on the very early date of 11 Oct 1996 (MJ; 44-96-107).

\***CURVE-BILLED THRASHER** (*Toxostoma curvirostre*). A single bird was in an unusual location -- Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) -- on 12 Aug 1996 (AV; 43-96-62).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo griseus*). An adult was at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 10-13 May 1996 (SB, BM; sketch; 51-96-64).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** (*Vireo flavifrons*). An adult was found during migration at Wagon Wheel Campground, Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.), on 17 May 1996 (BL; 51-96-67). A singing male was at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 23-25 May 1996 (BM; 51-96-68).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** (*Vireo philadelphicus*). A singing bird was found along the Poudre R. in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 2 Jun 1996 (BL, DL; 51-96-69). A fall bird was seen at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 14 Sep 1996 (MJ; 51-96-70).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora pinus*). An adult was in Cottonwood Canyon along the Baca/Las Animas county line west of Campo on 4 May 1996 (JR; 52-96-71). An adult male was at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 10 May 1996 (JT; 52-96-72).

**HERMIT WARBLER** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) (9). Two lucky observers found a first-year male in a grove at Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement (Bent Co.) on 17 May 1996 (BP; 52-96-73).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** (*Dendroica fusca*). An adult female was in Grandview Cemetery (Larimer Co.) on 28-29 Oct 1988 (DL; 52-96-74). A singing male was in the grove at L. Henry (Crowley Co.) on 4-5 May 1996 (MJ; 52-96-75).

\***PALM WARBLER** (*Dendroica palmarum*). An adult found two miles south of Monte Vista (Rio Grande Co.) on 10-11 May 1996 was in an unusual location (JR; 52-96-76).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** (*Protonotaria citrea*). A male was at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 6-7 May 1996 (BP; 52-96-77). Another male was at Monte Vista NWR (Rio Grande Co.) on 25 May 1996 (TL; 52-96-78). A third male was in Greenwood Village (Arapahoe Co.) From 29 Sep - 16 Oct 1996 (DQ; 52-96-79).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** (*Helminthos vermivorus*). One was at Cottonwood Creek west of Campo on the Baca/Las Animas county line on 4 May 1996 (LR; 52-96-80). A single bird was along Willow Creek behind the Lamar Community College in Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 5 May 1996 (MJ; 52-96-81). An adult bird was at the Last Chance rest stop (Washington Co.) on 17 May 1996 (BL; 52-96-82). Yet another bird was found at Wagon Wheel campground at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 17 May 1996 (BL; 52-96-108).

\***OVENBIRD** (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). A single bird was in Kremmling (Grand Co.) on 29 Oct and 4 Nov 1995 -- an unusual location on an unusual date (NB; photos; 52-96-83).

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** (*Seiurus motacilla*) (4). A well-described bird was in a woodland north of Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 17 May 1996 (DL; sketch; 52-96-84).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** (*Oporornis formosus*). An adult male was found in a wood lot at Flagler Res. (Kit Carson Co.) on 7 May 1996 (BS; 52-96-85). An adult male was in Rocky Mountain NP (Larimer Co.) on 11-12 Jun 1996 (CM; 52-96-86).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** (*Oporornis agilis*) (6). A well-described bird was at Tamarack Ranch SWA (Logan Co.) on 27 May 1996 (DL, JM; 52-96-87).

**MOURNING WARBLER** (*Oporornis philadelphia*) (13). A female was on private land northwest of Kit Carson (Cheyenne Co.) on 1 Jun 1990 (BR; 52-96-88). A male was at the Last Chance rest stop (Washington Co.) on 16-19 May 1996 (BP; 52-96-89), and a female also appeared at the Last Chance rest stop (Washington Co.) on 27 May 1996 (CW; 52-96-90).

\***MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER** (*Oporornis tolmiei*). A very rare winter occurrence of this species was documented when a female appeared below the dam at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) on 13-27 Dec 1996 (BP; 52-96-91).

\***HOODED WARBLER** (*Wilsonia citrina*). Apparently a first record for the West Slope, a female occurred at Tabeguache Basin northeast of Nucla (Montrose Co.) on 8 Sep 1996 (RL; 52-96-92).

\***YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (*Icteria virens*). A male was seen in "mid to late" Nov 1995 in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) (JH; photos; 52-96-95). The record was reviewed because of the late date.

**SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*). An immature male showed up at a feeder in Highlands Ranch (Douglas Co.) on 30 Oct 1996 (LB; 55-96-96).

**PYRRHULOXIA** (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) (2). The second record of this species for Colorado was a well-seen male in a backyard near Grant (Park Co.) on 12-16 Aug 1996 (PG, DS; photo; 56-96-97). This bird was first noted in July 1996 and was present for much of the summer and fall, although the records submitted only included the August dates. The bird was seen by many observers over its lengthy stay (Kingery 1997). The bird occurred in a rural area at 9300 feet elevation in the spruce/fir zone!

**PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*). A bird in female plumage was seen briefly at the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement (Bent Co.) on 12 May 1996 (MJ; 56-96-98).

\***GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Two birds were observed in Eagle (Eagle Co.), an unusual location for this species, on 23-24 Oct 1996 (JMe; sketch; 56-96-100).

**GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One was in the Hallam L. Nature Preserve at the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (Pitkin Co.) on 22 Dec 1996 - 1 Mar 1997 (DA; 56-96-101).

\***BOBOLINK** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). A male in breeding plumage was near Jaroso (Costilla Co.), an unusual location for the species, on 15 May 1996 (LR; 54-96-102).

\***SCOTT'S ORIOLE** (*Icterus parisorum*). A male in breeding plumage was in the Piñon Canyon maneuver site (Las Animas Co.) on 22 May 1996 (BM; 54-96-103). This site is far from the species' known breeding sites on the West Slope, although the habitat is juniper woodland, which is typical for the known breeding sites.

**PURPLE FINCH** (*Carpodacus purpureus*). A female was at a feeder in Rocky Ford (Otero Co.) on 15 Dec 1996 (MJ; 54-96-104).

\***LESSER GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis psaltria*). Two female-plumaged birds were found in Colorado Springs (El Paso Co.) on 21 Dec 1996, which is very late in the year (AV; 56-96-106).

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

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*). This record of three adults near DeBeque (Mesa Co.) on 30 Jan 1996 (sketch; 8-96-11) was not accepted by a 2-5 vote. This species continues to be problematic for committee members to consider because so many of the field marks are subjective, observation distances are often long range, and observations are frequently of lone birds or single-species flocks without Tundra Swans for comparison.

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*). RC members felt that the description of this single, immature gray-morph bird near Nunn (Weld Co.) on 11 Nov 1996 was too brief; it was not accepted by a 1-6 vote (9-96-15).

**WILSON'S PLOVER** (*Charadrius wilsonia*). A single observer submitted a record of a male in breeding plumage at Thomas Res. near Mead (Weld Co.) on 11 May 1996. The description was very brief and was not accepted by a 1-6 vote. This was a potential first record for Colorado (18-96-16).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). RC members felt that this individual was the same juvenile bird accepted as a Pomarine Jaeger (see record 22-96-18 above). The bird was variously described as a Parasitic or Pomarine Jaeger while at Cherry Creek (Arapahoe Co.) for several days. Jaegers are difficult for land-locked birders to identify, frequently because the birds are juveniles. This individual was present on 20 and 25 Nov 1996. It was not accepted by a 1-6 vote (22-96-19).

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*). This first-winter bird, observed at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 29 Apr 1996, was not accepted by a 2-5 vote (23-96-21). RC members felt that the documentation was too brief.

**HEERMANN'S GULL** (*Larus heermanni*). A single bird was reported at Weber Res. (Mancos Co.) on 2 Jul 1989. All RC members felt that this single-observer report was too brief (23-96-24).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*). This record of a first-winter bird occurred at Hamilton Res. (Larimer Co.) on 27 Nov 1988 was submitted as a drawing rather than a written report. The RC invites additional documentation or photos of this individual (sketch; 23-96-28). This record received a 3-4 vote and was not accepted.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*). A single bird reported on 11 Sep 1987 (exact location not specified) was not accepted due to the brevity of the report. The vote was 1-6 (25-96-35).

**GREAT GRAY OWL** (*Strix nebulosa*). RC members felt that this brief, single-observer report of a single bird in spruce/fir habitat on the east slope of Jones Peak at 10,500 feet elevation, approximately 20 miles southwest of Buena Vista (Chaffee Co.) on 27 Aug 1988, was too brief (28-96-40). It received a 1-6 vote and was not accepted.

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*). This record consisted of a bird seen on 12 Jul 1987 (the report was submitted in 1996) by a single observer. The bird was below Black Rocks along the Colorado R., one mile from the Utah state line (Mesa Co.). This location may be one of the more likely areas to find this species in Colorado, and the description suggested a Lesser Nighthawk. The report was too brief, however, and the RC voted 1-6 not to accept this record (29-96-41).

**ACORN WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*). This report was of four birds in the Durango area (Plata Co.) from 1994 - 1996 (31-96-43). Recent reports of this species in western Colorado have consisted of behavioral details and dates of occurrence, but unfortunately no field marks have been described. Thus the RC has not been able to accept these records. The RC urges observers

of Acorn Woodpeckers to submit records describing field marks and plumage details.

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*). This difficult, well-traveled record had been considered previously by the RC, but it remained unresolved as of 1995 (Bunn 1988). It was circulated again with this batch of records, this time with additional comments from a previous RC member and copies of the original drawings. The report described a non-singing adult bird on 28 Jun 1986 at Temple Canyon Park (Fremont Co.). Because Ash-throated Flycatcher had not been eliminated (particularly at that time of year and in piñon/juniper habitat), the RC voted 0-7 not to accept this record (34-86-37).

**BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER** (*Polioptila melanura*). This very difficult record has been circulated through the RC for several rounds (see Nelson 1993). It was a multiple-observer report of several birds seen in a semi-arid canyon with sagebrush and juniper habitat near Cameo (Mesa Co.) from 7-13 July 1991 (Dexter 1991). There was possible breeding. Although photographs accompanied the report, they were felt to be inconclusive or were thought to show a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*P. caerulea*). On the cover of the fall 1991 *C.F.O. Journal*, there was a photograph of a purported Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at the same site. The photo, however, seems to show the black forehead, lores, limited superciliary line, and eye ring of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Expert opinions expressed by Will Russell and David Stejskal of Arizona were very helpful to the RC. In the end, most committee members felt that Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in active tail-molt, as these birds were, could not be ruled out (see Dunn and Garrett 1987; Pyle 1997). There was no re-nesting or subsequent confirmation of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers at the site, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were nesting in the area during the next year. As a final note, wandering among Black-tailed Gnatcatchers is very limited. The RC vote was 2-5 to not accept the record (photos; 45-91-53).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** (*Catharus minimus*). The submitted description of a bird at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 10 May 1996 was felt to be too brief, and this record received a 1-6 vote to not accept (44-96-58).

**VARIED THRUSH** (*Ixoreus naevius*). A single adult reported east of Montrose (Gunnison Co.) on 20 July 1988 was described only briefly, and it was not accepted by a 3-4 vote (44-96-61).

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** (*Anthus spragueii*). A single bird was described with American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) at Lagerman Res. (Boulder Co.) on 4 May 1996 (46-96-63). The vote was 0-7. Observers are cautioned that the treatment of Sprague's Pipit in the Golden field guide (*A Guide to Field*

*Identification: Birds of North America*) is notoriously poor (Stallcup 1985); the illustration of this species looks like a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and not at all like a Sprague's Pipit.

**BLACK-CAPPED VIREO** (*Vireo atricapillus*). This was an exciting, potential first record for Colorado. An adult male was reported by a single observer from behind the Lamar Community College along Willow Creek in Lamar (Prowers Co.) on 28 May 1996 (sketches; 51-96-66). Most committee members felt that the observation period and description were too brief for such an extreme rarity. Although unlikely, this species is a potential vagrant in Colorado.

**CANADA WARBLER** (*Wilsonia canadensis*). A male was reported at Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 10 May 1996 (52-96-93). Both the view and the description were brief, and the RC voted 2-5 not to accept the record.

**PAINTED REDSTART** (*Myioborus pictus*). A single bird reported on 14 Sep 1996 near Tarryall Res. (Park Co.) was observed in flight only (52-96-94). The vote was 0-7 not to accept the record.

**BAIRD'S SPARROW** (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Six to 12 individuals were reported from the south shore of Upper Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 20 Apr 1996 (56-96-99). This was a single-observer report and the observer described a variety of plumages, including a "basic" plumage. The vote was 0-7 to not accept the record.

**HOARY REDPOLL** (*Carduelis hornemanni*). A female at a feeder near Lyons (Boulder Co.) on 1-18 Jan 1996 was not well differentiated from Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*) (56-96-105).

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

**MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*). Two birds were reported: an adult on 8 Dec 1996 at Connected Lakes (Mesa Co.) and an immature on 9 Dec 1996 at Ridgway SP in Ouray Co. (8-96-12). These two individuals were treated as a single record, and the record was not accepted by a 0-7 vote. While it could not be proven that the birds were of unwild origin, there were no historical or geographical patterns of occurrence to connect these records with known occurrences. Thus, RC members were precluded from voting to accept the record and adding Mute Swan to the Colorado list. Even though this record is not accepted at this time, it is important to note that such records become archived whether they are "accepted" or not. If similar records are submitted in the future, they all become part of the historical pattern of occurrence that could lead to future acceptance of the species in Colorado. Recent examples of other "Not accepted --natural occurrence questionable" records in Colorado

include Red-backed Hawk, Baikal Teal, and Mandarin Duck. The question of natural origin often results in spirited debates within records committees, and final disposition is not always unanimous -- or popular.

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**Corrections**

The following corrections are made to "The Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC) for 1994," which appeared in vol. 31 (January 1997), pages 23-32 of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*:

- a) on page 26: Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). The correct date for record 19-94-28 is 14 Sep 1994, not 26 Sep 1994.
- b) on page 27: Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). Record 23-94-35 was the 17th (not 16th) accepted record at that time.
- c) on page 28: Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). Record 44-94-51 was the 26th (not >40th) accepted record at that time. Correct dates for that record were 21-24 Nov 1994, not 22-24 Nov 1994.
- d) on page 29: Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). Record 52-94-63 was the 22nd (not the 23rd) accepted record at that time. Correct dates for that record were 12 Nov 1993 - 10 Apr 1994, not 12 May 1993.
- e) on page 30: Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). There were two accepted records. Record 52-94-73 pertains to an adult male seen in a Colorado Springs back yard 1-8 Jun 1993. Record number 52-94-74 pertains to an adult male seen in the same Colorado Springs back yard on 21 May 1994 and 18 Sep 1994. It is likely that both records, and all three visits, pertain to the same individual.

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