

## REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1999 RECORDS

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This report covers the rare bird records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the Committee) for 1999. The Committee evaluated 183 records of 98 species submitted by 67 observers. Fifty of the reports were accompanied by photographs, sketches, or field drawings, three included videotapes, and one provided a tape recording. All but one of the 183 records has received definitive votes by the CBRC through initial circulation, re-circulation, and consultation, and is presented here. One record's review was suspended and will be evaluated, with additional information, as part of the 2000 report. Of the 1999 records, 158 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 86%. The majority of records are of birds observed in 1999. Per CBRC bylaws, all "accepted" records received 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept, either on the initial circulation or on the re-circulation. All records that were "not accepted" received fewer than four votes to accept (3-4, 2-5, 1-6, or 0-7) either on initial circulation or on re-circulation, or more than one "not-accept" during the meeting of the Committee.

Three species, Zone-tailed Hawk, Iceland Gull, and Common Ground-Dove, are added to the Colorado State list as a result of the 1999 circulation and are published in this report. The recent A.O.U. split of Sage Grouse into two separate species, both of which occur in Colorado, resulted in an official increase of one species for the list. The two species are now listed as Greater Sage-Grouse and Gunnison Sage-Grouse. Other potential first state records (White-tailed Kite, Vaux's Swift, Elegant Tropicbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Olive Warbler, and Smith's Longspur) were not accepted and are also published in this report. The Colorado State List stands at 469 species following these additions and changes.

Other highlights of this report include the third accepted records each of Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Pyrrhuloxia, the fifth records of Acorn Woodpecker and Sprague's Pipit, plus documentation on three additional Eurasian Collared-Dove records. This species was only added to the state list two years ago, but is expanding its distribution at a phenomenal rate.

The Committee's membership at the close of the 1999 was: Bill Lisowsky (chairman), Karleen Schofield, Tony Leukering, Joe Mammoser, John Rawinski, Chris Wood, and Vic Zerbi.

**Committee Functions:** All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature. All written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum and are available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation on all species on its review list (Janos 1998), on unusual occurrences by date or location, and on species unrecorded in Colorado.

Please send rare bird documentation and any other Committee correspondence either to: Tony Leukering, CBRC Chairman, P.O. Box 157, Arvada, CO 80001; or to the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collection, Denver Museum of Science and Nature, 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—either for reasons of identification, or for questions of natural occurrence or origin. Species are listed in current American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) taxonomic order (AOU 1997, 2000). Within species, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is its location, including county, and date(s) of occurrence. The initials of observers who submitted the reports and the record accession number (note the recently modified format of "four digit year - number", e.g. "1999-55") immediately follow the sighting information. If known, the initials and name(s) of reporting observers who discovered the bird(s) are underlined. The date span follows the submitted record date(s). Records are sight records unless otherwise noted. An asterisk (\*) prior to a species' name indicates that it is not currently on the CBRC's review list. For species with ten or fewer Colorado records, the number in parentheses following the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this reporting period.

Abbreviations used in the report: Co. (County); CBC (Christmas Bird Count); CC (Community College); NP (National Park); Res. (Reservoir); SP (State Park); SWA (State Wildlife Area); WE (Wildlife Easement).

#### **Part 1: RECORDS ACCEPTED:**

**RED-THROATED LOON**—*Gavia stellata*. An adult bird in breeding plumage was at Wolford Res. (Grand Co.) from at least 7/10/99 through 8/10/99.

This is the first July or August record for Colorado. (JL; 1999-1) Another record came from Jumbo Res. (Logan Co.) on the more expected date of 11/27/99. (PSw; 1999-2)

\***PACIFIC LOON** – *Gavia pacifica*. An adult basic-plumaged loon was at Baseline Res. (Boulder Co.) on strange date of 6/29/99. (LS; 1999-3)

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** – *Gavia adamsii*. A basic-plumaged bird spent a good part of the winter at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.), from 12/5/99 through at least 1/17/00. (MJ; 1999-4)

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – *Podiceps grisegena*. An immature bird originally found by Coen Dexter was seen at the Colorado River Wildlife Area near Clifton (Mesa Co.) on 12/13/99. (RL, photos; 1999-5) A basic-plumaged bird was seen at Hamilton Res. (Larimer Co.) on 1/30/99 (NK; 1999-6) Another record came from Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) between 11/13/99 and 12/5/99. (MJ; 1999-7)

**BROWN PELICAN** – *Pelecanus occidentalis*. A subadult was seen at Blue Lake SWA (Bent Co.) on 7/2/99. (NK; 1999-8) An adult and subadult were together at Quincy Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 9/5/99. (PLa; 1999-9)

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** – *Egretta caerulea*. An adult was seen flying up the Cache la Poudre River near Fort Collins (Larimer Co.). (BL; 1999-11) Another sighting, of a juvenile bird, was near this same spot, on 8/5/99. (CW; 1999-183) A third report, a subadult, was in a pond east of Lochbuie (Weld Co.) on 8/15/99. (KS; 1999-12)

**TRICOLORED HERON** – *Egretta tricolor*. Two adults in breeding plumage were found by Mark Janos and Brandon Percival at a pond near Lake Holbrook (Otero Co.) on 5/16/99. (MJ; 1999-13)

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – *Nyctanassa violacea*. An adult in breeding plumage, previously found by others, was seen at Sawhill Ponds (Boulder Co.) on 5/22/99 (TL, photo; 1999-14)

**GLOSSY IBIS** – *Plegadis falcinellus*. Last year five records were accepted and 1999 was another big year with three more records submitted and accepted, confirming at least in part that observers are carefully scanning the spring *Plegadis* flocks. A breeding-plumaged adult was observed at Cherry Creek SP (Arapahoe Co.) on 4/26/99. (BB; 1999-15) Two other birds, both adults in breeding plumage, were seen in flooded fields, one west of Interstate 25 on 5/12/99 in Larimer County just east of Fossil Creek Res. (NK; 1999-16) and one near Fort Lupton (Weld Co.) on 5/15/99. (NK; 1999-17)

\***CANADA “CACKLING” GOOSE** – *Branta canadensis minima*. An excellent documentation package was received and accepted for an individual of this subspecies, which is very rare in Colorado. The bird was viewed and photographed over the period of 3/19/99 through at least 5/26/99 at Chatfield Arboretum (Jefferson Co.) by numerous

observers. (AB, photos; LN; 1999-18)

**BRANT**– *Branta bernicla*. (9, 10) Two reports included a seven-year old record that had not been previously reviewed even though it was seen and reported at the time by many other observers. It was resubmitted along with photos of the specimen, and will be recorded officially as the Black Brant (*nigricans* race), seen 10/31/93 in Weld Co. at Union Res. (VD, photos; 1999-19) On 11/17/99, Dan Bridges found another adult of the *nigricans* race at Utah Park (Arapahoe Co.) which was also seen by many observers through at least 11/20/99. (LS, photos; PG; 1999-20)

**EURASIAN WIGEON**– *Anas penelope*. An adult male seen at Fruitgrowers Res. (Delta Co.) on 2/11/99 was only the second West Slope record. (EH; 1999-23)

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** – *Anas rubripes*. The increasing trend of sightings for this species continues. The Committee also continues to struggle during their record reviews, as the potential for hybridization is high. An adult bird at Nee So Pah (Kiowa Co.) on 2/7/99 was a very difficult call but the completeness of the description was felt to be sufficient. (MJ; 1999-25)

\***SURF SCOTER** – *Melanitta perspicillata*. This species is very rare on the West Slope. A female was seen at Rifle Gap Res. (Garfield Co.) on 11/28/99. (KP; 1999-27)

**BLACK SCOTER** – *Melanitta nigra*. A female was seen at Big Johnson Res. (El Paso Co.) 11/11/99 through 12/9/99. (MJ; 1999-28)

\***LONG-TAILED DUCK** – *Clangula hyemalis*. This is not normally a review species; however, this report came from the West Slope, where they are rare. A female was seen at Pastorius Res. near Durango (La Plata Co.), on 12/31/98 through 1/1/99. (SA; 1999-29)

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** – *Buteo lineatus*. One was seen along the Poudre River near the Northern Colorado Environmental Learning Center (Larimer Co.) on 10/2/99. (DAL; 1999-30)

\***BROAD-WINGED HAWK** – *Buteo platypterus*. A juvenile seen near Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) on 9/30/99 presented the Committee with some real challenge, however, it was accepted, after two rounds of review and a vote at a Committee meeting. (RL; 1999-31)

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK** – *Buteo albonotatus*. (1) Extensive documentation was received on this **first state record** from Colorado National Monument (Mesa Co.) on 7/17/99. Photographs, sketches, and original field notes were submitted. The observation was made by a group of Colorado Bird Observatory summer field ornithology campers as the bird soared over Independence Monument Overlook. Persistence certainly paid off for the group, as like most Zone-tails, at

first look it appeared to be "just" another Turkey Vulture. With careful study, it proved to be the first accepted record in Colorado. (JD, photo; NB; AW photo; SY photo; MN; 1999-176)

**BLACK RAIL** – *Laterallus jamaicensis*. (9) Getting any kind of picture of this reclusive species takes effort, but an unbelievably detailed photo was submitted for a bird seen at Bent's Old Fort marsh (Otero Co.) on 5/10/97. (DAL, photo; 1999-33)

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** – *Limosa haemastica*. Two reports were submitted. Two adults were seen near Nee So Pah Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 5/7/99. (MJ; 1999-35) A male in alternate plumage was seen on 4/22/99 near Beebe Draw (Weld Co.) (SD; 1999-36)

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** – *Arenaria interpres*. On 8/10/99, one was seen and photographed at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.). (DM, photo; 1999-37) Another bird, an adult male in alternate plumage, was seen at John Martin Res. (Bent Co.) on 8/14/99. (RO; 1999-38)

\***WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** – *Calidris fuscicollis*. A rare west slope record from 1999 was of three seen at Rio Blanco SWA (Rio Blanco Co.) on 6/7/99. (DF; RL; 1999-39)

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – *Limnodromus griseus*. Six records were accepted in 1999. One was a juvenile seen at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 8/25/98. (TL; 1999-40) Another juvenile from 1998 was at Rocky Ford sewage ponds (Otero Co.) on 9/13/98. (TL; 1999-41) A spring adult, later seen by many as part of the CFO convention field trips, was found near Galetton (Weld Co.) on 5/20/99. Dave Leatherman's photo captured this bird in flight and really demonstrated the unique tail pattern. (BL; DAL photo; 1999-42) One juvenile was seen near Stoneham (Weld Co.) on 9/3/99. (BL; 1999-43) Lower Latham Res. hosted another on 9/5/99. (JV; 1999-44) The final report was of a juvenile molting to basic plumage at Fossil Creek marsh (Larimer Co.) on 10/9/99. (PSw; 1999-45)

**POMARINE JAEGER** – *Stercorarius pomarinus*. An adult bird in alternate plumage on 6/17/99 was documented and photographed from Stagecoach Res., in Routt County. (DF, photos; 1999-46) This was only the second June record of this species in Colorado.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** – *Stercorarius parasiticus*. A light-morph adult was seen and well documented from Windsor Res. (Weld Co.) on 10/18/99. (SD; 1999-50)

**JAEGER, species** – A record documenting what was seen was submitted and accepted for an obvious jaeger seen only briefly at Hamilton Res. (Larimer Co.) on 10/31/99. (PSw; 1999-47) Some observers are reluctant to submit reports of individuals not identified to species. However, it is helpful for the overall record to have such reports.

**LAUGHING GULL** – *Larus atricilla*. One was seen and photographed in definitive alternate plumage at the Walsh sewage ponds (Baca Co.) on 5/9/99. (TL, photos; 1999-51) A second-year bird was seen on a sand bar at Adobe Creek Res. (Bent Co.) on 7/6/99. (BKP; 1999-52)

**LITTLE GULL** – *Larus minutus*. There were three submitted reports. A prior year report, a young bird in first basic plumage, was seen at Barr Lake (Adams Co.) on 11/8/98. (TL; 1999-54) A juvenile bird was seen at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 10/5/99. (SD; 1999-53) An adult that was first found on 11/27/99 and stayed through a good part of the winter and was seen by many observers at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) among the numerous Bonaparte's Gulls. (TL; 1999-55)

**MEW GULL** – *Larus canus*. Perhaps unprecedented, four different birds were seen in 1999. A second-basic bird was seen standing on the island at Jim Hamm Pond (Weld/Boulder Co.) on 2/27/99. (TL; 1999-56) On 11/18/99, an individual (most likely an adult) was seen nearby, along the northwest end of Union Res. (Weld Co.) (JV, video; TL; 1999-57) An adult in basic plumage was seen at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 11/20/99. (JV, video; PG; SDo; TL; 1999-58) A first basic bird was seen on the Barr Lake CBC and was SW of Ft. Lupton (Adams Co.) on 12/31/99. (JV; 1999-59)

**ICELAND GULL** – *Larus glaucopterus*. (1) Some long-time Colorado birders had been predicting this one for some time, and it finally happened on 1/9/99 when Ric Olson spotted a first-basic bird on the ice at Valco Ponds SWA (Pueblo Co.) and later watched it preening. Many other observers also were able to re-find this **first state record** as it remained until the next day, 1/10/99. It was photographed as well. (RQ; BKP; DQ; MJ; PG; TL, photos; TD, video; 1999-172)

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – *Larus fuscus*. In last year's report, four records were enough to elicit the comment that "this is a species that is definitely becoming more common in Colorado." There were **fourteen** records in 1999. A fourth-basic or definitive-basic bird was at Lake Loveland (Larimer Co.) on 12/12/98. (NK; 1999-60) A second-basic bird was at Douglas Res. (Larimer Co.) on 1/6-7/99. (SD; NK; 1999-61) A basic adult was found at Windsor Res. (Weld Co.) on 2/10/99. (SD; 1999-62) A first-alternate bird was seen at Horseshoe Res. (Larimer Co.) on 4/3/99 and 4/18/99. (NK; 1999-64) Yet another bird, in second-basic plumage, was also at Horseshoe Res. (Larimer Co.) on 4/18/99. (SD; 1999-65) A first-winter bird was found at Timnath Res. (Larimer/Weld Co.) on 8/28/99. (PSw; LS, photos; SD; 1999-66) Up to three, including two second-basic and one fourth-basic or definitive-basic bird were at Warren Lake in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) between the period of 11/14/99 and 11/22/99. (SD; JF; 1999-67) A bird in

definitive-basic was seen at Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe Co.) on 12/4/99. (DF; TL; 1999-68) A second-basic bird was found on the ice at Horseshoe Res. (Larimer Co.) on 12/11/99 and over at Lake Loveland on 12/12/99. There is little distance between these two locations and the observer was sure it was the same bird. (TL, photos; 1999-69) A subadult, probably a second-basic bird was seen at Lake Loveland 12/12-13/99. (NK; 1999-70) A fourth-basic was nearby at Horseshoe Res. (Larimer Co.) on 12/12/99. (TL; 1999-71) A third-basic was at Loveland Res., (Larimer Co.) on 12/12/99. (TL, photo; 1999-72) A first-basic was found at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) during the CBC on 12/18/99. (TL; 1999-73) A near adult in basic plumage was also seen during the Pueblo Res. CBC on 12/18/99 and re-spotted on 1/9/00. (TL; 1999-74)

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** – *Larus marinus*. An adult in definitive basic was on the North Marina of Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) between 1/3/99 and 1/31/99. (TL; 1999-75) Another in adult basic plumage was seen on the south side of Nee Noshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 2/18/99. (BKP; 1999-76) The third report also came from Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) as one spent the winter there during at least the period of 11/8/99 through 1/8/00. (GL, photos; TL; 1999-77)

**ARCTIC TERN** – *Sterna paradisaea*. (7) Two observers made careful notes following a thirty-minute observation of an adult bird in alternate plumage at Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 10/5/99. (TL; DF; 1999-78)

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – *Streptopelia decaocto*. (2, 3, 4 & 5) The CBRC received an expected flurry of records on this species that is rapidly expanding its range in the state. One was at Fowler (Otero Co.) on 5/17/98. (TL; 1999-80) Twelve were at Springfield (Baca Co.) on 11/28-29/98 and two were re-sighted by Harry Kahler there attending a nest, the state's first, between 5/7/99 and 5/16/99. (TL; 1999-79) One was at Holly (Prowers Co.) on 5/17/99. (TL; 1999-81) Three were at the usual Rocky Ford spot (Otero Co.) on 7/25/99. (LS; 1999-82)

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** – *Zenaidura asiatica*. One adult was near Rye (Pueblo Co.) 7/17-18/99. (DS; 1999-83)

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** – *Columbina passerina*. (1, 2, 3, & 4) The first dual-observer record in Colorado opened the door to the addition of this species to the state checklist. In Colorado, single observer records are acceptable; however, until conclusive verification by a second person, specimen or photograph, the records are put in suspense and the species is not added to the state list. In the case of this particular species, three previous single observer records were "on hold." The bird that actually confirmed the species was seen by a group of Denver birders including Dave Quesenberry and Gail

Owens, who documented it with excellent reports. This bird was at Jackson Res. near Fort Morgan (Morgan Co.) on 11/20/99. This bird, by virtue of the three previously accepted single observer sightings actually becomes the fourth Colorado record. (DQ; GE; 1999-181) The previously accepted Common Ground-Dove records are now annotated in the archives as follows:

Dennis Morales at Deckers (Douglas Co.) on 11/8/81. (25-81-64)

Galen Burrell at Tamarack (Logan Co.) on 12/17/81. (25-81-63)

Joe Himmel at Cozzens Lake (Weld Co.) on 12/22/94. (25-94-41)

\***WESTERN SCREECH-OWL** – *Otus kennicottii*. For the second year in a row, good documentation of a very easterly and northerly record was submitted from Franktown (Douglas Co.), 4/12/99. (HK; UK; 1999-84)

**LESSER Nighthawk** – *Chordeiles acutipennis*. Three birds were found at the Lamar CC grove along Willow Creek (Prowers Co.) on 5/9/99. (MJ; 1999-85)

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** – *Caprimulgus vociferus*. (9) A bird identified as the southwestern race of this species by call was found by Walt Wilson and then independently re-found by many others near Fosset Gulch Road, 26 miles west of Pagosa Springs (Archuleta Co.) on 6/22/99 and other dates. (BKP, tape recording; 1999-86)

**BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – *Lampornis clemenciae*. An adult female was seen at rest and feeding at nearby flowers at a private home on 7/29/99 at an elevation of 7600 feet, in Black Forest (El Paso Co.). (BBH; 1999-87)

**MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD** – *Eugenes fulgens*. (6) A female was seen at Flagstaff Mountain (Boulder Co.) on 8/10/99 that had been present for some time previously. (CW; 1999-88)

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** – *Archilochus colubris*. (3) Peter Gaede and Brandon Percival found a very active adult male that was frequently observed foraging in the Russian Olive and Cedar trees behind Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 4/30/99. It was very accommodating and a number of observers were able to re-find it on 5/1/99. (PGa; RO; MJ; 1999-89)

\***CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – *Stellula calliope*. This was an extremely “late date” report, from Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) where one was seen from 9/28/99 through 10/11/99. (LA; 1999-90)

**ACORN WOODPECKER** – *Melanerpes formicivorus*. (5) Six birds were seen near Durango, (La Plata Co.) the only dependable spot in Colorado to find this species. At least two males and one female were firmly identified from the group seen on 4/11/99. (PGa; 1999-91)

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** – *Contopus virens*. A singing bird of this species was found at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 5/1/99. (MJ; 1999-93)

**\*GRAY FLYCATCHER** – *Empidonax wrightii*. Two reports of this species, very rarely reported from the eastern plains, were submitted and accepted. One was seen at Crow Valley Campground on the Pawnee National Grassland (Weld Co.) on 9/19/98. (PSw; JF; 1999-94) A second report was received from Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) of a bird along the Poudre River Bike Trail on 4/18/99. (DAL; 1999-95)

**BLACK PHOEBE** – *Sayornis nigricans*. One was found at the “Frog Pond” near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 8/23/99. (DS; 1999-96)

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** – *Pyrocephalus rubinus*. A male first discovered by Jim Norton graced the edge of the Platte River at Chatfield State Park (Jefferson Co.) on 5/15/99. (JK; 1999-97)

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** – *Tyrannus forficatus*. For the third year in a row, this species was seen at a location between Colorado Springs and Black Forest (El Paso Co.) This year, a pair was seen beginning 6/10/99, building and then sitting on a nest. However, the female was found dead on 6/28/99. The male remained in the area through at least 7/18/99. (BBH; TD photos; 1999-98) A female was seen near Briggsdale (Weld Co.) on 6/18/99. (EC; 1999-99) A male was seen and photographed in this same vicinity on 8/29/99. (SD; JF; DM photo; 1999-100)

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** – *Vireo griseus*. A bird first found by Brandon Percival was seen on 5/8/99 at Ft. Lyon WE in Bent County. (MJ; 1999-101) A singing male was seen on both 8/25/99 and 8/31/99 at Chatfield State Park (Jefferson Co.) (KS; 1999-102)

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** – *Vireo flavifrons*. Lisa Rawinski spotted this adult bird in breeding plumage at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 5/9/99. (JR, LR; 1999-103) Another adult was seen at Chatfield SP (Jefferson Co.) on 5/12/99. (KS; 1999-104) A singing adult was on the Air Force Academy base, near Ice Lake (El Paso Co.) on 5/15/99. (AV; 1999-105) A frantically feeding bird was in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 10/7/99. (DAL; 1999-106)

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** – *Vireo solitarius*. One, found by Van Remsen, was at Bass Lake, in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (Jefferson Co.) on 9/14/99 and 9/15/99. (KS; EC; 1999-109) Another was seen actively foraging at Fort Collins, along the Poudre River Trail (Larimer Co.) on 9/19/99. (DAL; 1999-110)

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – *Vireo philadelphicus*. One was carefully described from a sighting at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 9/26/99. (DAL; 1999-111)

**\*RED-EYED VIREO** – *Vireo olivaceus*. A rare West Slope report, a singing bird was found on Fosset Gulch Road (Archuleta Co.) on 6/27/99. (BBH; 1999-112)

**CAROLINA WREN** – *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A bird visited a feeder in Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) at the Tucey residence, on 2/15/99 and stayed through at least 2/19/99. (BKP; 1999-114) Another feeder visitor was in Boulder (Boulder Co.) during the period of 10/11/99 to 11/26/99. (BG, photos; 1999-113)

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** – *Catharus minimus*. Two records were received and accepted in 1999. One bird was seen on 5/8/99 at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) (TL; 1999-115) A second bird was seen well and photographed along the Poudre River Trail east of Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 5/19/99. (DAL, photos; 1999-116)

**WOOD THRUSH** – *Hylocichla mustelina*. Among a number of migrants in a wood lot at Two Buttes SWA (Baca Co.) on 5/10/99, this rarity popped up and was seen well. (TL; 1999-117) Another Wood Thrush was found along the Poudre River Trail on 5/16/99 by Dave Leatherman and his mother, Charlotte (an occasional birding companion). Almost all participants at the 1999 CFO Convention heard at least part of the daily songfest for this, the probable highlight bird of the convention at Fort Collins. It stayed until at least 5/21/99. (DAL; MJ; 1999-118)

**VARIED THRUSH** – *Ixoreus naevius*. A wary male seen along the Republican River east of Bonny Res. (Yuma Co.) on 1/1/99 was a great start to the new year. (PGa; 1999-119)

\***CURVE-BILLED THRASHER** – *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Photographs documented a bird of this species at Red Cliff, (Eagle Co.) where they are rare. The bird was seen from 6/17/99 through 6/18/99. (JA, photos; 1999-120) Another out-of-place bird that was captured on film, was one west of Livermore (Larimer Co.) from 8/25/99 to 8/28/99. (CB, photos; 1999-121)

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** – *Anthus spragueii*. (5) Following up on a previously reported sighting, Tony Leukering kicked one up from a field south of Julesburg (Sedgwick Co.) on 10/18/98. (TL; 1999-122)

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – *Vermivora chrysoptera*. A first-basic bird was found at the south end of Chatfield SP (Jefferson/Douglas Co.) as it actively fed in 30-40' trees on 8/24/99. (KS; 1999-123) An adult female was seen at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (Jefferson Co.) 9/14-15/99. (TD; 1999-124)

\***MAGNOLIA WARBLER** – *Dendroica magnolia*. This species is not a review species but is very rare in Colorado away from the Front Range. A breeding-plumaged male was seen actively feeding at Home Lake SWA (Rio Grande Co.) on 5/22/99. (JR; LR; 1999-125)

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** – *Dendroica tigrina*. A fall adult in basic plumage was seen at the northwest end of Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) on 10/

24/99. (DS; 1999-126)

\***BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – *Dendroica caerulescens*. An adult male was seen south of Eagle (Eagle Co.), where rare, on 9/24/99. (JM; 1999-127)

\***BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – *Dendroica virens*. An adult female was at the parking area at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.) on 5/16/99. (MJ; 1999-128)

**HERMIT WARBLER** – *Dendroica occidentalis*. (10-11) Two reports make it a big year for a species that is this rare in Colorado. An adult male was at Hasty Campground (Bent Co.) 4/24-25/99. It was located by its chip note but gave observers great looks. (MJ; 1999-129) A second report was submitted for a breeding plumage male seen at Jim Hamm Park, near Union Reservoir (Boulder Co.) on 5/17/99. (PG; 1999-130)

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** – *Dendroica fusca*. Brandon Percival found a breeding-plumaged male at Lake Henry grove near Ordway (Crowley Co.) on the morning of 5/15/99. Fortunately others were able to re-find it later that day. (MJ; 1999-131) A first-fall female was found at Greenhorn Creek near the edge of Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 11/18/99. (DS; 1999-132)

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** – *Dendroica dominica*. A male was found by Brandon Percival on 5/1/99 at Lamar Cemetery (Prowers Co.) and re-found later by others, including participants of a CFO field trip on 5/7/99. (RO, MJ; 1999-133) A male in breeding plumage was also seen at Chatfield State Park (Jefferson Co.) on 5/16/99. (JK; 1999-134) A bit later in the season, one was seen and photographed at Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) on 6/12/99. (PH, photos; 1999-135)

**PINE WARBLER** – *Dendroica pinus*. An individual was a sporadic feeder visitor in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) and was later photographed. It first appeared on 12/19/98 and remained through at least 1/14/99. (BC, photos; 1999-136) At the west end of Lake Henry, (Crowley Co.) on 5/21/99, a male gave itself away by its song and was seen forty feet up in a cottonwood as it alternately preened and sang. (JK; 1999-137)

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – *Dendroica discolor*. A prior year document and photo was submitted of a basic male that was banded at Barr Lake State Park (Adams Co.) on 8/21/98. (TL, photo; 1999-138) During a CFO field trip behind Lamar CC (Prowers Co.), an adult male was well seen and sang often. (MJ; 1999-139) Another male, an immature, was seen east of Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 9/19/99. (MJ; 1999-140)

\***PALM WARBLER** – *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. An eastern race adult male was seen on 12/26/99 at the Cattail Marsh south of Comanche Power Plant (Pueblo Co.). Obviously, the date is significant, however this was excellent documentation of the rarer

subspecies in Colorado. Interestingly, this subspecies accounts for most of the winter-season records and has rarely if ever been recorded at other seasons. (DS; 1999-141)

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** – *Protonotaria citrea*. An adult male was found hopping in willows and on the ground at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 5/15/99. (LSi; 1999-142) A fall bird was seen below the dam at Prewitt Reservoir (Washington Co.) on 9/8/99. (TD; 1999-143) The third report from 1999 was also of a fall bird at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (Jefferson Co.) that foraged at eye level on 9/14/99. (GW; 1999-144)

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – *Helmitheros vermivorus*. The CBRC received three reports consisting of documentation for four birds in 1999. Two were seen at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 4/24/99. (MJ; 1999-145) Mark Janos found another bird on the same day at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) as it fed among the low branches near the edge of heavy thickets. (MJ; 1999-146) The final report came from Two Buttes Res. (Prowers Co.) where on 5/8/99 the Rawinskis turned up one feeding in the riparian habitat below the dam. (JR; LR; 1999-147)

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** – *Oporornis formosus*. A breeding-plumaged adult found originally by Brandon Percival was stalked amid the tamarisk at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.) on 5/7/99 before it finally hopped out into the open and was seen well. (MJ; 1999-148) An early-morning sighting was made near Craver Middle School in Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) on 6/29/99 after it gave itself away with steady singing. (DS; 1999-149)

**MOURNING WARBLER** – *Oporornis philadelphia*. An adult male in breeding plumage was found in the Lamar CC grove (Prowers Co.) on 5/8/99 through 5/15/99. It foraged low, rarely more than ten feet above the ground. (RQ; MJ; 1999-150) On 5/17/99, Tony Leukering turned up another adult male at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.), and Janos saw it the next day as it briefly came to the edge of a heavy tamarisk grove. (MJ; 1999-151)

**CANADA WARBLER** – *Wilsonia canadensis*. Rare anywhere in Colorado, but especially so in the high country, an adult male was well seen near Meeker (Rio Blanco Co.) on 5/27/99. This bird landed on top of some willows along the creek bank and then began flycatching until chased off by a Yellow Warbler. (DH; 1999-152)

\***SUMMER TANAGER** – *Piranga rubra*. An adult male graced a Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) backyard on 11/22/99. (SD; 1999-153)

**EASTERN TOWHEE** – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. (5, 6, 7, & 8) The record is beginning to grow for this species since the A.O.U. split. The tough identification challenge cannot be overemphasized, due mostly to the

occurrence of hybrid Eastern x Spotted Towhee individuals in eastern Colorado. The distinctive vocalizations of this species remain an important separation criterion. A male was seen and heard at Franktown (Douglas Co.) on 10/16/99 through 10/18/99. (HK; UK; 1999-154) An adult female near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.) was well studied and convincingly described. (DS; 1999-155) An adult male was seen along the Riverwalk in Canon City (Fremont Co.) on 12/19/99. (PGa; 1999-156) Another adult male was seen for many days at the Watts' feeder in Penrose (Fremont Co.) during the period of at least 12/19/99 through 1/9/00, including the CBC. (TL; 1999-157)

**GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** – *Zonotrichia atricapilla*. (9, 10, 11, & 12) Through the end of 1998, eight records had been accepted in Colorado by the CBRC. Incredibly, in 1999, four records were accepted. The first report was of an immature that was banded and photographed at Barr Lake SP by Glenn Giroir on 10/19/98 and present until at least 11/5/98. (TL, photo; 1999-158) Steve and Kathy Martin had a bird at their feeder near Wellington (Larimer Co.) from 12/17/98 through 2/9/99. They also banded and photographed this immature bird. (SM; 1999-159) An early spring bird was near Dolores (Montezuma Co.) on 4/22/99. (MA; 1999-160) Dave Leatherman was able to capture a beautiful immature on film at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 10/1/99. (DAL, photos; 1999-161)

\***NORTHERN CARDINAL** – *Cardinalis cardinalis*. An adult sang and then perched to allow observers good looks before flying into the understory at Cottonwood Canyon (Baca Co.) on 5/8/99. (JR; LR; 1999-163)

**PYRRHULOXIA** – *Cardinalis sinuatus*. (3) This male bird was at a feeding station near Durango (La Plata Co.) 4/29-30/99. Several helpful photos were provided to aid in the documentation of this timid and extremely rare Colorado bird. (DR, photo; 1999-164)

\***INDIGO BUNTING** – *Passerina cyanea*. Perhaps a first Grand County record, an adult male was seen 5/18/99 through 5/21/99 at a feeder at the Colorado Division of Wildlife Office in Hot Sulphur Springs. (KP; 1999-165)

**PAINTED BUNTING** – *Passerina ciris*. A male was seen by many at Barr Lake SP (Adams Co.) on 4/21/99 through at least 4/25/99 but only one observer submitted information to the Committee. The bird was visiting the feeders at the Visitor Center. (MC; 1999-166)

\***BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – *Icterus bullockii*. An immature was seen over two days, feeding on shriveled grapes from a fence in a residential backyard in Lamar (Prowers Co.) on the unusually late dates of 11/30/99 and 12/1/99. (DAL; 1999-167)

**PURPLE FINCH** – *Carpodacus purpureus*. A male was seen and photographed during a cold spell at a Franktown (Douglas Co.) feeder 10/28/99 through 10/30/99. (HK, photo; UK; 1999-170)

**Part 2 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable:**

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** – *Phalacrocorax brasiliianum*. An adult bird reported from Strauss Cabin Pond (Larimer Co.) on 10/9/99 was reviewed three times by the Committee but ultimately, in a Committee meeting vote, was felt to be lacking several key field marks and the record was not accepted. (1999-10).

**TRUMPETER SWAN** – *Cygnus buccinator*. The identification of this species is always a hard call, especially at a distance, and the Committee struggled with two separate reports in 1999. Both were likely correct identifications, but the bill descriptions were lacking. The bird at Lake Estes (Larimer Co.) on 2/13/99 was not accepted by a vote of 3-4. (1999-21) The bird seen between 7/8/99 and 7/15/99 at Culver Lake near Lafayette (Boulder Co.) was also not accepted, by the same vote of 3-4. (1999-22)

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** – *Anas rubripes*. There is always the concern about possible hybridization between this species and Mallard. It is doubtful that any non-specimen report can completely eliminate this possibility, but observers are encouraged to continue to submit careful descriptions. A bird seen at Long Pond (Larimer Co.) on 1/6/99 was especially difficult. Despite careful observation by the observers to clearly determine and eliminate this possibility of a hybrid, reporters identified differing characteristics that left open this potential. The Committee debated this record and decided during the third review not to accept it. (1999-24) The Committee also felt that the report of the bird seen at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 5/27/99 was not definitive and did not accept it by a vote of 0-7. (1999-26)

**GYRFALCON** – *Falco rusticolus*. A report was received of one between Oak Creek and Steamboat Springs (Routt Co.) on 11/13/99. This bird was well described and could have been correct, but a few characteristics were wrong for a Gyr and the Committee decided not to accept by a vote of 0-7. (1999-32)

**WHITE-TAILED KITE** – *Elanus leucurus*. A very good report was provided for a bird believed to be this species near Cortez (Montezuma Co.) on 11/5/99. The Committee felt that elements were missing that should be documented to separate all similar species, particularly in the case of a potential first state record such as this, and voted not to accept by a vote of 0-7. (1999-180)

**POMARINE JAEGER** – *Stercorarius pomarinus*. A dark-morph juvenile at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) on 11/6/99 was almost certainly correctly identified and the documentation provided was good. However, it was felt that additional information should be provided and this report be re-circulated some time in the future. The listed information did not rule out all other congeners and the Committee, by a voice vote, elected not to accept. (1999-48) By a vote of 3-4, one at Cherry Creek SP (Arapahoe Co.) on 11/15/99 was not accepted, again pointing out the difficulty of this identification and the resulting documentation challenge to clearly separate all other possible species. (1999-49)

**ICELAND GULL** – *Larus glaucopterus*. A very compelling document and photos were provided but the Committee just did not feel that all potential possibilities had been eliminated, including the always-difficult “pale” Thayer’s Gull. It certainly seems possible that the bird seen at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) on 4/17/99 was correctly identified, however on re-circulation, the determination was not to accept it, by 1-6 vote. (1999-172)

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – *Larus fuscus*. A sub-adult, most likely a Basic II, was seen at Horseshoe Lake (Larimer Co.) on 2/11/99 but the Committee was split on its identification and voted 1-6 on re-circulation. (1999-63)

**VAUX’S SWIFT** – *Chaetura vauxi*. The acceptance of a first state record for any species always requires extensive details and documentation that can completely eliminate all potentially similar species. The two reports received this year by two different observers each provided careful descriptions of this species. However the Committee still was concerned that there was reasonable doubt for each record. The information was strongly supportive. The first report, from Walden Ponds SWA (Boulder Co.) on 5/23/99 received a vote of 1-6. (1999-174) The second report, which included excellent sketches of a bird over Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 7/6/99, received a vote of 2-5. (1999-175)

**ELEGANT TROGON** – *Trogon elegans*. There was too little information provided to accept this report of what would have been an addition to the state checklist. The vote was 0-7 on a report from Mancos (Montezuma Co.) in mid-June 1999. (1999-173)

**\*WILLIAMSON’S SAPSUCKER** – *Sphyrapicus thyroides* - Two birds were reported from Mesa Verde NP (Montezuma Co.) during the period of 1/27/99 through 2/13/99. This record was very difficult not to accept as it was likely identified correctly, however the report was very short and did leave out some characteristic marks of the species. The vote, on re-circulation, was 2-5. (1999-92)

**BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER**—*Picoides arcticus*. This report was of a bird seen at an elevation of 8000', near Pine (Jefferson Co.) between 5/30/99 and 7/16/99. There are no accepted records in Colorado. The Committee carefully reviewed the documentation and sketch that was provided but voted not to accept by a vote of 1-6. (1999-182)

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**—*Empidonax virescens*. This potential first state record of a bird seen at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 4/16/99 was well described and all characteristics listed were supportive. However, the Committee did not feel that all other flycatchers were eliminated and did not accept the record by a vote of 0-7. (1999-177)

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO**—*Vireo solitarius*. Two records were not accepted, primarily because the descriptions did not separate them from Cassin's Vireo. Cheek/throat contrast, head color, crown/back contrast and the extent of white in the tail are some of the main separators but there are intermediate birds that can make this identification very difficult. One was at Monte Vista Cemetery (Rio Grande Co.), on 5/13/99 and received a 3-4 on the second round of voting. (1999-107) The second report was from Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Adams Co.) on 9/12/99 and also received a "not accept" decision on re-circulation, by a vote of 2-5. (1999-108)

**OLIVE WARBLER**—*Peucedramus taeniatus*. There was too little information to accept this report. There were many other similar species that were not eliminated, and the Committee voted 0-7 on the report of a bird near Mancos (Montezuma Co.) on 9/7/99. (1999-178)

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR**—*Calcarius pictus*. The Committee struggled with this excellent report and attached sketch. Two observers carefully described what they had seen at Lake Estes (Larimer Co.) on 10/17/99 and all listed information was consistent with this species. However, there were still a few important field marks that were not observed and therefore did not eliminate several similar species. By a vote of 3-4, the Committee voted not to accept this report as the first record in Colorado. (1999-179)

**\*SNOW BUNTING**—*Plectrophenax nivalis*. By a vote of 1-6, the Committee determined that while supportive documentation had been provided, not all similar species had been eliminated for the two breeding-plumaged males reported at Mancos (Montezuma Co.) on 2/15/99. (1999-162)

**PURPLE FINCH**—*Carpodacus purpureus*. This is always a difficult identification challenge. A good report with photos from a feeder near Blackhawk (Jefferson Co.) on 1/24/99 to 1/30/99 did not clearly separate this female bird from a Cassin's and the Committee voted 3-4 not to accept. (1999-168) For a similar reason, and by a vote of 1-6,

the five birds reported from Nunn (Larimer Co.) on 4/11/99 were also not accepted. (1999-169)

**Part 3 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, establishment of introduced population questionable: NONE**

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