

The 74th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

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INTRODUCTION

This 74th report (Report) of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 151 reports submitted by 84 observers and documenting 85 species. Some very old reports are published here for the first time, and the Report covers all the remaining reports submitted to the CBRC in 2013 and 2014 not previously covered. The CBRC intends to have regular reports this year in order to get up-to-date. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted records received a final 7-0 or 6-1 vote to accept. The accepted species in this Report are limited in details, but more information is given for the reasons that reports are not accepted. No species are either added or deleted from the state list in this report, so that the Colorado List remains at 507 species, as detailed in the 73rd Report (Gent and Peterson 2019).

Committee members voting on these reports were David Dowell (Longmont), John Drummond (Colorado Springs), Kathy Mihm Dunning (Denver), Peter Gent (Boulder), Tony Leukering (Wiley), Bill Maynard (Colorado Springs), Dan Maynard (Denver), Steven Mlodinow (Longmont), Christian Nunes (Lyons), Mark Peterson (Colorado Springs), Bill Schmoker (Longmont), Jason St. Pierre (Durango), and Glenn Walbek (Castle Rock).

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its Main Review List (coloradobirdrecords.org/ReviewList.aspx), species with no prior accepted record in Colorado and sightings of regularly occurring species that are considered out-of-range or out-of-season. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website: coloradobirdrecords.org. Alternatively, one can fill out the form printed on the dust jacket of this journal and mail it to the CBRC Chair, or request an electronic document from the Secretary (see this journal's inside front cover for contact information or visit <https://cobrc.org/>).

REPORT FORMAT

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 59th Supplement (Chesser et al. 2018). We present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official accession number and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, the second and third rounds (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash) in the following format: (Accession number; accept votes – not accept votes).

The initial observer of the bird is underlined, if known, and is presented first only if that person contributed documentation; additional contributors follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the initial observer is known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined and presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture are indicated with an ampersand (&). In this report, county names are italicized. Abbreviations are used for the following: Reservoir (Res.), State Park (SP), and State Wildlife Area (SWA).

ACCEPTED RECORDS

RED-NECKED GREBE – *Podiceps grisegena* (CH[&]; 2014-122; 7-0): Two birds were initially seen building a nest on May 30, 2014 at Lake John State Wildlife Area (*Jackson*). On June 2, the birds had abandoned the original nest site and were building a new nest. The birds were observed incubating at that nest site through June 18. This constitutes a new breeding record for Colorado, and this site is several hundred miles south of their nearest known nesting sites in southwest Montana and northeast South Dakota.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE – *Columbina passerina* (EDe; 2014-084; 7-0): One was seen on June 19, 2014 at Navajo SP (*Archeluta*), which is the 6th documented occurrence of this species in Colorado.

LESSER NIGHTHAWK – *Chordeiles acutipennis* (SM; 2014-072; 6-1): Three birds were seen in the evening of June 5, 2014 at Totten Res., *Montezuma*. (KMD, MK, MH; 2014-129; 7-0): A female was seen on June 8, 2014 at the Nucla sewage lagoons, *Montrose*, and probably the same individual was seen there on June 11. This species has been documented several times at this location by Brenda Wright and Coen Dexter.

RIVOLI'S HUMMINGBIRD – *Eugenes fulgens* (JD[&], SM[&]; 2014-159; 7-0): A female was seen at a residence just north of Coal Creek Canyon, *Boulder*, on October 27 and November 1, 2014. The bird was regularly seen at this location for approximately one week in late October and early November.



Red-necked Grebe, Jackson. 02 June 2014. Photo by Charles Hundertmark.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – *Archilochus colubris* (SM[&]; 2014-114; 7-0): An adult female was seen on July 29, 2014 at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*. (DD[&]; 2014-179; 7-0): An immature female was seen on August 30, 2014 at the Lions Club Fishing Hole on the east side of Holyoke, *Phillips*.

COMMON GALLINULE – *Gallinula galeata* (BM[&]; 2014-079; 7-0): A bird was seen on May 27, 2014 at a private lake near Rocky Ford, *Otero*. This is the 9th documented sighting of this species in Colorado.



Common Gallinule, Otero. 27 May 2014. Photo by Bill Maynard.

PIPING PLOVER – *Charadrius melodus* (RSi[&]; 2014-087; 7-0): One was seen on August 9, 2014 at Barr Lake SP, *Adams*. This species is not often seen this far north of its breeding locations in the Arkansas River Valley.

RED PHALAROPE – *Phalaropus fulicarius* (PWN[&], BP[&]; 2014-085; 7-0): An adult female was seen on July 31, 2014 at Wahatoay Lake Res., *Huerfano*. This was a first county record and probably the first sighting of this species in July in Colorado.

PARASITIC JAEGER – *Stercorarius parasiticus* (AB[&], NK[&]; 2014-154; 7-0): An adult in breeding plumage was seen on September 13, 2014 at Timnath Res., *Larimer*. (DS; 2014-147; 7-0): Another adult in breeding plumage was seen on September 16, 2014 at Antero Res., *Park*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER – *Stercorarius longicaudus* (BM[&]; 2011-162; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on October 14, 2011 at the west end of Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*. (BM[&], BP[&]; 2014-131; 7-0): An immature was seen on September 5, 2014 also at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*. (NK[&]; 2014-155; 7-0): Another immature bird was seen on September 15-18, 2014 at Boyd Lake SP, *Larimer*. (DD[&], SM; 2014-142; 7-0): A third immature was seen on September 16-19, 2014 at Boulder Res., *Boulder*.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – *Rissa tridactyla* (BP[&]; 2014-173; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on December 9, 2014 at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*.

LITTLE GULL – *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (AH[&]; 2014-120; 6-1): An immature bird was seen on August 19, 2014 at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*.

WESTERN GULL – *Larus occidentalis* (JD; 2014-171; 6-1): An adult was seen on November 30, 2014 at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*. This is the sixth accepted documented record of this species in Colorado.

ICELAND GULL – *Larus glaucooides* (BC[&]; 2014-092; 7-0): An adult was seen on December 11, 2010 at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*. (PB[&]; 2014-095; 6-1): An adult was seen on December 31, 2013 at Walden Ponds east of Boulder, *Boulder*. (SM, MM-L, NK[&]; 2014-006; 7-0): An immature bird was seen from January 3-11, 2014 at Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*. Note that these 3 reports document Iceland Gulls before the species was lumped with Thayer's Gull in 2017 (Chesser et al. 2017).

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – *Larus glaucescens* (SM[&]; 2014-174; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on December 1, 2014 at the Larimer County landfill in southwest Fort Collins, *Larimer*.

LEAST TERN – *Sternula antillarum* (DD[&]; 2014-180; 7-0): An adult was seen on May 28, 2014 at Jackson Res., *Morgan*.

ARCTIC TERN – *Sterna paradisaea* (BM[&]; 2014-132; 7-0): An adult was seen on September 5-10, 2014 at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*. (NK[&]; 2014-156; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on September 14-17, 2014 at Boyd Lake SP, *Larimer*. (PH[&]; 2015-096; 6-1): An adult was seen on September 15, 2014 at Smith Res. SWA, which is in the San Luis Valley, *Costilla*. (SM, NM; 2014-141; 7-0): Another immature was seen on September 17, 2014 at John Martin Res., *Bent*. These 4 records indicate a significant migration of Arctic Terns through Colorado in early September, 2014.

RED-THROATED LOON – *Gavia stellata* (JSt[&]; 2014-100; 6-1): One was seen on July 7, 2012 at John Martin Res., *Bent*.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON – *Gavia adamsii* (SM[&], KP; 2014-172; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on December 10-13, 2014 at Boyd Lake SP, *Larimer*. (JK[&], JD[&]; 2014-176; 7-0): Another immature, but possibly the same individual, was seen on December 13-20, 2014 at Chatfield SP, *Jefferson/Douglas*.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (RB, JBt[&]; 2014-047; 7-0): An immature bird was seen between April 17 and May 3, 2014 at Denny Lake in Cortez, *Montezuma*.

LEAST BITTERN – *Ixobrychus exilis* (BM[&]; 2014-078; 7-0): A bird was seen on May 18-25, 2014 at Rose Pond in the southern part of Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – *Nyctanassa violacea* (SM; 2014-113; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on July 17, 2014 near Wray, *Yuma*. (SM[&]; 2014-152; 7-0): Another immature was seen on September 24, 2014 at Neesopah Res., *Bent*.

WHITE IBIS – *Eudocimus albus* (MBr[&]; 2014-149; 7-0): An adult was seen on September 11, 2014 at Horseshoe Lake, which is northeast of Loveland, *Larimer*.

MISSISSIPPI KITE – *Ictinia mississippiensis* (SW[&]; 2014-165; 7-0): A group of 5 birds of mixed ages were seen on July 21, 2012 at Glenmere Park in Greeley, *Weld*. (EC; 2014-117; 6-1): One was seen on September 11, 2013 at the Loudy Simpson Nature Trail in Craig, *Moffat*.



Harris's Hawk, Costilla. 12 July 2014. Photo by Ronald Newhouse.

HARRIS'S HAWK – *Parabuteo unicinctus* (RN[&]; 2014-143; 6-1): An adult was seen on July 12, 2014 at Highway 150 south of Fort Garland, *Costilla*. This is the 9th documentation of this species in Colorado.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – *Buteo platypterus* (TD; 2014-074; 7-0): An adult was seen on June 14, 2014 at Snowline Lake, which is in Lump Gulch, *Gilpin*. This is the first record of this species in Gilpin County.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK – *Buteo albonotatus* (BK, DMA[&], MPE[&]; 2014-051; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on May 10, 2014 at the Lamar Community College, *Prowers*. This is the 4th documentation of this species in Colorado.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (DS; 2014-148; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on August 4, 2014 on Pike National Forest Road 211, which is between Tarryall and Deckers, *Park*.

ACORN WOODPECKER – *Melanerpes formicivorus* (JRo[&]; 2014-073; 7-0): An adult female was seen on June 8, 2014 on Stony Pass Road, which is west of Deckers, *Jefferson*.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – *Sphyrapicus varius* (SS[&]; 2015-018; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on January 22, 2011 in Centennial, *Arapahoe*, which represents the first documentation of this species in this county. (SA; 2014-126; 6-1): An adult male was seen on March 22, 2014 in the Florida River Estates Subdivision, which is northeast of Durango, *La Plata*.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – *Contopus virens* (SM; 2014-067; 7-0): One was seen on May 25, 2014 at Duck Creek SWA, which is northeast of Crook, *Logan*. (CS[&]; 2014-057; 7-0): One was seen on May 29, 2014 at Crow Valley Campground in the Pawnee Grasslands, *Weld*. (CK, SS, JSh; 2014-111; 7-0): An adult was seen on July 2-6, 2014 at the Poudre River Trail in east Fort Collins, *Larimer*. (BK; 2014-093; 7-0): One was seen on August 2, 2014 at the Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*. (SM; 2014-136; 7-0): One was seen on September 5, 2014 also at the Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER – *Empidonax flaviventris* (BK; 2012-183; 5-2, 5-2, 6-1): One was seen on November 15, 2012 at the University of Colorado campus in Boulder, *Boulder*. (GW[&]; 2014-025; 7-0): One was seen on September 15, 2013 at Flagler Res. SWA, *Kit Carson*. (SM; 2014-065; 6-1): One was seen on May 14, 2014 along Highway 385 halfway between Holyoke and Wray, *Yuma*. (SM[&]; 2014-139; 6-1): One was seen on August 28, 2014 a few miles north of Laird, *Yuma*.

ALDER FLYCATCHER – *Empidonax alnorum* (SM; 2014-064; 7-0): One was seen on May 21, 2014 along Highway 385 halfway between Holyoke and Wray, *Yuma*. (SM[&]; 2014-066; 7-0): A male was seen on May 25, 2014 at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*. (BM[&]; 2014-077; 7-0): One was seen also on May 25, 2014 in the north part of Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*. (SM; 2014-137; 7-0): One was seen on August 30, 2014 at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*. (SM[&]; 2014-134; 7-0): One was seen on August 31, 2014 near Hale, which is east of Bonny Res., *Yuma*.

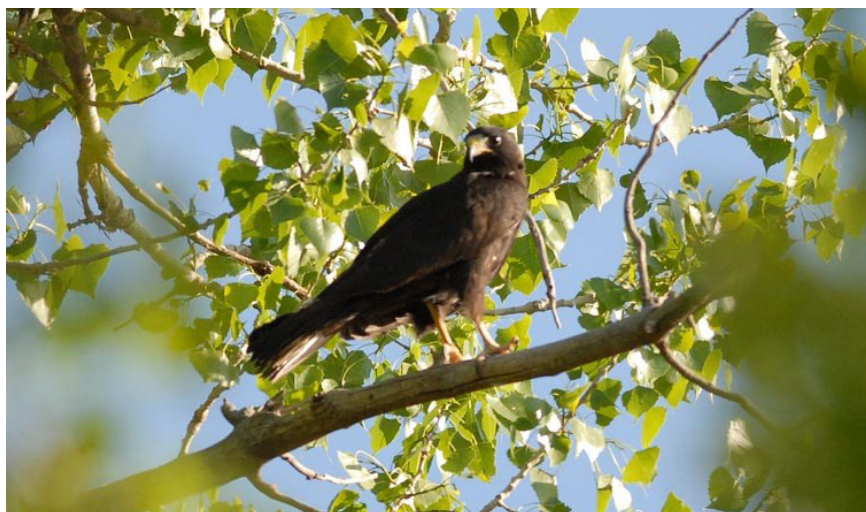
VERMILION FLYCATCHER – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (RSi; 2013-17; 6-1): A male was seen on June 14, 2011 at the City Park in Campo, *Baca*. (GW[&]; 2014-099; 7-0): A male was seen on April 28, 2012 at the Brett Gray Ranch, which is a few miles east of Hugo, *Lincoln*. (JRa[&]; 2014-082; 7-0): Another male was seen on May 8, 2014 along the Rio Grande River between Gerrard and Del Norte, *Rio Grande*.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – *Tyrannus forficatus* (BP[&]; 2014-081; 7-0): A male was seen on July 14, 2014 along Highway 67 between Florence and Wetmore, *Fremont*.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – *Vireo solitarius* (RSp[&]; 2014-053; 7-0): An adult was seen on May 16, 2014 at the McMurry Natural Area in Fort Collins, *Larimer*.

PACIFIC WREN – *Troglodytes pacificus* (D&JL[&], CD[&]; 2014-083; 5-2, 6-1): A male was heard singing on July 13-14, 2014 along the Bear Creek Trail in Telluride, *San Miguel*. This is an intriguing report as it documents possible nesting of this species in southwest Colorado.

WOOD THRUSH – *Hylocichla mustelina* (GW[&]; 2014-098; 7-0): One was seen on April 28, 2012 at the Elbert Ranch, which is on Highway 94 a few miles east of Colorado Springs, *El Paso*.



Zone-tailed Hawk, *Prowers*. 10 May 2014. Photo by Mark Peterson.

VARIED THRUSH – *Ixoreus naevius* (DR[&]; 2014-168; 7-0): A male was seen on December 2, 2014 in west Colorado Springs, El Paso.

PURPLE FINCH – *Haemorhous purpureus* (SW; 2014-166; 6-1): A male was seen on March 11, 2013 in southwest Fort Collins, *Larimer*. (BG[&]; 2014-164; 7-0): A female was seen on November 12-13, 2014 at a feeder in Longmont, *Boulder*. (DMo[&]; 2014-167; 7-0): Another female was seen on November 23-25, 2014 at a feeder in Steamboat Springs, Routt. (SM; 2014-175; 6-1): A male was seen on December 12, 2014 in Greeley, *Weld*. (BP[&]; 2014-178; 7-0): A female was seen on December 16, 2014 at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*. Clearly there was an influx of this species into Colorado in the fall of 2014.

COMMON REDPOL – *Acanthis flammea* (JBs[&]; 2014-043; 7-0): One was seen on December 19, 2012 at a feeder in Paonia, *Delta*. (RY; 2014-102; 7-0): One was seen on January 2, 2013 also at a feeder a few miles south of Del Norte, *Rio Grande*. (JBs[&]; 2014-103; 7-0): One was seen on January 7, 2013 at a feeder in Delta, *Delta*. The winter of 2012/2013 was the big invasion season of Redpolls in Colorado.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL – *Loxia leucoptera* (MPI[&]; 2014-106; 7-0): A male was seen on February 8, 2013 at a feeder a few miles northeast of Kiowa, *Elbert*. This is a very unusual report of this species out on the Eastern Plains of Colorado.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR – *Calcarius pictus* (TL; 2003-67; 5-2, 3-4, 7-0): Two birds were seen on September 11, 2002 at Barr Lake, *Adams*.

SNOW BUNTING – *Plectrophenax nivalis* (JD[&]; 2014-163; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on October 31, 2008 at Antero Res., *Park*.

EASTERN TOWHEE – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (CS[&]; 2013-272; 6-1): A male was seen on November 17, 2013 at Banner Lakes SWA, which is a few miles east of Hudson, *Weld*. (DB; 2015-033; 6-1): A female was seen on December 27, 2013 at the Adams Open Space in Fountain, *El Paso*. (SM[&]; 2014-068; 7-0): An immature female was seen on May 24, 2014 near Julesburg, *Sedgwick*. (SM; 2014-069; 7-0): A male was seen on May 25, 2014 at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*. (SM[&]; 2014-140; 7-0): Another male was seen on September 13, 2014 at the Fox Ranch, which is on Highway 36 between Joes and Idalia, *Yuma*. (AV[&]; 2014-170; 5-2, 6-1): A male was seen on December 5, 2014 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal State Wildlife Refuge, *Adams*.



Baird's Sparrow, El Paso. 27 August 2014. Photo by Bill Maynard.

BAIRD'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus bairdii* (BM[&], JD[&], BC[&], JRo[&], SM[&]; 2014-128; 7-0): Up to 8 birds were seen between August 27 and September 14, 2014 along Curtis Road and Drennan Road, which are a few miles southeast of Colorado Springs, *El Paso*. This gathering of Baird's Sparrow was a complete surprise, and, even though adults feeding young was observed, it was not clear whether these birds had bred in this location. A similar gathering has not been found in this location in subsequent years. (SM; 2014-135; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on September 13-14, 2014 at the Fox Ranch, *Yuma*.

LECONTE'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus leconteii* (GW[&]; 2014-115; 7-0): One was seen on January 3, 2003 at John Martin Res., *Bent*. (GW; 2014-116; 6-1): Another bird was seen on March 18, 2004 also at John Martin Res., *Bent*.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (JC[&], 2014-107; 7-0): One was seen on March 2, 2013 at Two Buttes SWA, *Bent*. (BK; 2014-089; 6-1): One was seen on January 9, 2014 at the north Teller Lake parking lot, which is a few miles east of Boulder, *Boulder*. This was one of the last reports of this individual which spent 7 consecutive winters (probably its whole life) at this location.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK – *Sturnella magna* (SM; 2014-157; 7-0): One was seen on September 29, 2014 in the meadow north of Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*.

HOODED ORIOLE – *Icterus cucullatus* (CD[&]; 2014-130; 7-0): An adult female was seen on May 1-2, 2014 at a feeder in Nucla, *Montrose*. This is the second documentation of this species in Colorado.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – *Icterus galbula* (GG[&]; 2007-136; 6-1): A male was seen on June 9, 2007 at Bonny Res., *Yuma*. (RM; 2014-054; 7-0): Another male was seen on May 24, 2014 at Road Canyon Res., which is a few miles west of Highway 149 about halfway between Creede and Lake City, *Hinsdale*.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – *Limnethlypis swainsonii* (JT[&]; 2014-109; 7-0): An adult was seen on March 5, 2014 at Melody Tempel Grove, *Bent*.



Hooded Oriole, Montrose. 01 May 2014.
Photo by Brenda Wright.

MOURNING WARBLER – *Geothlypis philadelphia* (SM; 2014-063; 7-0): An adult male was seen on May 14, 2014 near Highway 385 halfway between Holyoke and Wray, *Yuma*. (KMD[&]; 2014-091; 7-0): Another male was seen on May 21, 2014 at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*. (BP[&]; 2014-056; 7-0): A third male was seen on May 26-27, 2014 in a downtown Pueblo yard, *Pueblo*. (SM[&]; 2014-138; 7-0): An immature female was seen on September 8, 2014 at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*.

HOODED WARBLER – *Setophaga citrina* (JBu[&]; 2014-050; 7-0): An adult male was seen on May 5-9, 2014 near Highway 24 just east of Divide, *Teller*.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – *Setophaga fusca* (GW; 2014-105; 7-0): A male was seen on May 10, 2006 at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*.

PINE WARBLER – *Setophaga pinus* (Edo[&], KH; 2014-096; 7-0): A male was seen on December 9-12, 2011 at a feeder in Aurora, *Arapahoe*. (JBt; 2014-055; 7-0): An adult female was seen on May 4, 2014 at Pastoris SWA, which is southeast of Durango, *La Plata*.

PRAIRIE WARBLER – *Setophaga discolor* (CT[&], NL[&]; 2014-119; 7-0): An adult male was seen on May 15, 2014 at Belmar Historic Park, *Jefferson*. (BP[&]; 2014-076; 7-0): An adult female was seen on May 22, 2014 at the Chico Basin Ranch headquarters, *Pueblo*. (SS; 2014-181; 7-0): Another adult female was seen on May 24, 2014 at Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*. A good spring migration for this species.

HERMIT WARBLER – *Setophaga occidentalis* (JT[&]; 2014-110; 7-0): An adult male was seen on April 25, 2014 at Melody Tempel Grove, *Bent*.

CANADA WARBLER – *Cardellina canadensis* (SM[&]; 2014-133; 7-0): A male was seen on August 27, 2014 at Prewitt SWA, *Washington*. (AB[&]; 2014-161; 7-0): A female was seen on September 13, 2014 at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*. (SBr[&]; 2014-145; 7-0): A female was caught and banded on September 22, 2014 at Clear Springs Ranch, which is south of Colorado Springs, *El Paso*.

SUMMER TANAGER – *Piranga rubra* (MBi[&]; 2014-049; 7-0): An immature male was seen on May 9-11, 2014 at a feeder in Grand Lake, *Grand*.

PAINTED BUNTING – *Passerina ciris* (GW[&]; 2014-104; 7-0): A female was seen on May 18, 2006 in the north part of Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*.

ACCEPTED SUBSPECIES

Cackling Goose (ALEUTIAN) – *Branta hutchinsii leucopareia* (SM[&]; 2014-013; 6-1): An immature bird was seen on December 29, 2013 at Julesburg Res., *Logan*. This subspecies breeds in the Aleutian Islands and winters in the Central Valley of California, and is extremely rarely seen in Colorado. The subspecies of Cackling and Canada Geese, and their distribution in Colorado, is discussed in Righter and Semo (2006).

ACKLING GOOSE (RIDGWAY'S) – *Branta hutchinsii minima* (SM[&]; 2013-18; 7-0): One was seen on March 7, 2013 at Windsor Lake, *Weld*. This subspecies breeds in southwest Alaska and winters in western Oregon and Washington, and is rarely seen in Colorado.

MALLARD (MEXICAN DUCK) – *Anas platyrhynchos diazi* (BP[&]; 2013-105; 6-1): A male was seen on April 7, 2013 at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*. (SM[&]; 2013-129; 5-2, 7-0): A female was seen on April 14, 2013 at Loloff Res., *Weld*. (SM; 2013-179; 7-0): A male was seen on June 30, 2013 at Glenmere Park in Greeley, *Weld*. (SM[&]; 2013-216; 7-0): Another male was seen on September 22, 2013 at Firestone Gravel Pits, *Weld*. This subspecies of Mallard occurs in the southwest United States, and is uncommon in Colorado. Its occurrence in Colorado is discussed in Leukering and Mlodinow (2013).

MERLIN (BLACK) – *Falco columbarius suckleyi* (CS[&]; 2013-199; 7-0): One of this Pacific northwest subspecies of Merlin was seen on April 23, 2013 at Union Res., which is a few miles northeast of Longmont, *Weld*. (BP[&]; 2014-040; 7-0): A female was seen on March 19, 2014 in Pueblo West, *Pueblo*. This subspecies of Merlin was first documented in Colorado by Alfred Bailey (1942), and its status in New Mexico is discussed in Dickerman (2013).



Black Merlin, Pueblo. 19 March 2014. Photo by Brandon Percival.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (RUSSET-BACKED) – *Catharus ustulatus ustulatus* (SM; 2013-143; 7-0): A bird of this Pacific coast subspecies of Swainson's Thrush was seen on May 11, 2013 below the dam at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*. (SM; 2013-146; 6-1): Another bird was seen on May 12, 2013 at Tempel Grove, *Bent*. (SM; 2013-160; 7-0): A third bird of this race was seen on May 28, 2013 at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*. The status of the Russet-backed subspecies in Colorado is discussed in Mlodinow et al. (2013).

FOX SPARROW (RED) – *Passerella iliaca iliaca* (BW[&]; 2014-009; 7-0): One of this northern and eastern subspecies of Fox Sparrow was seen on November 21-22, 2013 at a feeder in east Denver, *Denver*. (SBo[&]; 2014-144; 7-0): Another was seen on January 6-13, 2014 at a feeder in Peaceful Valley, which is between Ward and Allenspark, *Boulder*. Andrews and Righter (1992) say this subspecies is a "rare spring and fall migrant and winter resident on eastern plains, mostly on extreme eastern plains." Therefore, the sighting at Peaceful Valley at 8,500' elevation is very unusual.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Many Colorado birders, expert and beginner alike, will sooner or later have a bird report "not accepted" by the CBRC. While some written descriptions may describe a look-alike species or subspecies causing the non-acceptance, more often than not, unaccepted reports simply do not provide enough descriptive details or convincing photographs to provide "without a doubt" evidence to support a record. Or, the key call or song was not heard well or not described well or at all. Even a 5-2 majority vote in favor of a record being accepted does not meet the required 6-1 or 7-0. The bird may well, in fact, refer to the species reported, but the details provided may have been not convincing enough. Do not be insulted. Next time, detail every key identification point you observed (but not a word-for-word field guide description). Separate all of the look-alike species and when appropriate address potential hybrids. When photographing, attempt to get clear shots that show key features/behavior/posture or include a sound recording or a sonogram when possible.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK – *Dendrocygna bicolor* (2014-162; 0-7): One reported on November 8, 2014 at Kettring Pond, which is in northwest Boulder, *Boulder*. The description did not eliminate several other duck species, and especially possible hybrids.

MALLARD (MEXICAN DUCK) – *Anas platyrhynchos* (2013-127; 5-2, 5-2, 4-3): A male was reported on March 20, 2013 at Angel Lake, which is a few miles southwest of Briggsdale, *Weld*. (2013-128; 5-2, 5-2, 4-3): A lighter male was reported on April 3, 2013 also from Angel Lake, *Weld*. Neither report contained any photographs, which made the decision more difficult, and some members thought the description did not eliminate possible hybrids with Mallards.

TUNDRA SWAN – *Cygnus columbianus* (2014-075; 0-7): Two birds were reported on June 1-3, 2014, and one bird was photographed on June 23, 2014 at Saint Vrain SP, which is east of Longmont, *Weld*. The photograph clearly shows that the report is of a Mute Swan.

MUTE SWAN – *Cygnus olor* (2014-160; 0-7): Two were seen on October 31, 2014 at City Park Lake in Fort Collins, *Larimer*. In spite of yearly sightings of Mute Swan in Colorado, there have been no records of the species accepted, and it presently does not appear on the state checklist. There is no currently accepted method to determine if Colorado Mute Swans escaped from captivity or if they wandered to Colorado on their own.

WHOOPIING CRANE – *Grus americana* (2014-118; 3-4): Two birds were reported on March 15, 1984 from Barr Lake, *Adams*. Several committee members accepted the description was of Whooping Cranes, but then were concerned that the birds came from the introduced population that wintered at Bosque del Apache SWA in New Mexico and migrated through the San Luis Valley. It was noted that all 4 reports of adult Whooping Cranes from Colorado were from November, which also indicated that a March report might be of birds from the introduced population.

POMARINE JAEGER – *Stercorarius pomarinus* (2012-217; 1-6): A juvenile was reported on September 6, 2008 from McIntosh Lake, which is in northwest Longmont, *Boulder*. This bird was only seen for 4 minutes in the middle of the lake. Young jaegers are notoriously difficult to identify, and several committee members thought that Parasitic Jaeger was not eliminated by the description.

HERRING GULL (Vega subspecies) – *Larus argentatus vegae* (2012-209; 1-6): A male was reported on December 28, 2011 from Lake Loveland, *Larimer*. (2012-210; 0-7): Another bird was reported on December 17, 2012 also from Lake Loveland, *Larimer*. Committee members thought that the submitted photographs did not show that these birds had a darker mantle than Herring Gulls from North America, and that some North American Herring Gulls can have dark eyes, as does the Vega subspecies.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – *Larus glaucescens* (2014-035; 5-2, 4-3, 3-4): An immature bird was reported on February 22, 2014 from Cherry Creek SP, *Arapahoe*. This sighting was very brief lasting only 45 seconds, and some committee members thought that the possibility of a hybrid gull was not eliminated.

GYRFALCON – *Falco rusticolus* (2014-150; 0-7): One was reported on February 13, 2014 from Pineridge Natural Area in west Fort Collins, *Larimer*. The observer only saw the underside of the bird, and committee members thought that several light-morph buteo species were not eliminated sufficiently.

ROSY-FACED LOVEBIRD – *Agapornis roseicollis* (2014-045; 0-7): One was seen on June 20, 2013 two miles south of Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*. All committee members agreed with the identification, but thought there was a high probability that this was an escaped bird. However, the introduced population of this species around Phoenix, Arizona is increasing quite rapidly, and has now spread to Tucson.

ROSE-THROATED BECARD – *Pachyrhamphus aglaiae* (2014-080; 0-7): One was reported

on July 15, 2014 from the Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins, *Larimer*. The description included “a small bird with a white belly,” and committee members thought that this did not describe the reported species.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – *Contopus virens* (2013-255; 4-3): One was reported on September 6, 2004 from Barr Lake SP, *Adams*. The description mentioned a few brief calls and the bird was never seen, which led to some committee members wondering whether some other species could mimic the call.

MEXICAN JAY – *Aphelocoma wollweberi* (2014-048; 0-7): One was reported on May 1, 2014 at a feeder in Centennial, *Arapahoe*. Most committee members thought that this report pertained to an unusual looking Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay.

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN – *Corvus cryptoleucus* (2013-120; 3-4): One was reported on April 20, 2013 from the Big Thompson River Walk in west Loveland, *Larimer*. Without a photograph or recording of this bird, some committee members thought that a smallish Common Raven was not totally eliminated.

SEDGE WREN – *Cistothorus platensis* (2014-094; 2-5): One was reported on May 24, 2014 from the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, *Rio Grande*. Several committee members thought that the description was too brief, and lacked details, to fully support the identification as a Sedge Wren.

SWAINSON’S THRUSH (RUSSET-BACKED) – *Catharus usutulatus* (2013-226; 3-4): An immature was reported on September 15, 2013 from north Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*. Several committee members thought that the photographs showed this bird’s back was not red enough to be the Russet-backed subspecies.

REDPOLL SPECIES – *Acanthis* sp. (2013-81; 3-4): A male Redpoll was reported on January 27, 2013 from Silverthorne, *Summit*. It had several aspects of a Hoary Redpoll, but had several streaks on its flanks and undertail. Committee members thought it should be left as Redpoll species, as it was submitted.

SMITH’S LONGSPUR – *Calcarius pictus* (2014-127; 0-7): Two were reported between August 28 and September 2, 2014 in a yard in northwest Colorado Springs, *El Paso*. Committee members thought that the description did not eliminate other species, and the habitat was not correct for Smith’s Longspurs.

EASTERN TOWHEE – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (2014-125; 3-4): A male was reported on August 29, 2014 from Muir Springs, which is northwest of Fort Morgan, *Morgan*. Several committee members thought that the brief description did not rule out a hybrid with Spotted Towhee.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK – *Sturnella magna* (2014-112; 2-5): One was reported on July 10, 2014 from just northeast of Antonito, *Conejos*. The bird did not vocalize and was only seen briefly, which led several committee members to conclude that a hybrid with Western Meadowlark was not eliminated.

SCOTT’S ORIOLE – *Icterus parisorum* (2014-124; 0-7): An immature male was reported on July 27, 1974 from Durango, *La Plata*. Committee members thought that the brief description from 40 years ago did not eliminate other Oriole species.

INDIGO BUNTING – *Passerina cyanea* (2014-052; 2-5): One was reported on May 15, 2014 from a feeder in Parachute, *Garfield*. Several committee members thought that the white wingbar and white lower belly shown in the photograph indicated that the bird was a hybrid with Lazuli Bunting.

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