

79th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

BY MARK PETERSON

CHAIR, COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE



INTRODUCTION

This 79th report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) presents the results of deliberations involving 83 reports submitted by 69 observers documenting 68 species in 35 counties. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted records received a final 7-0 or 6-1 vote to accept. The American Ornithological Society split Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) into two species: Short-billed Gull and Common Gull, with Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) representing the North American population. Also, the genus for Ruby-crowned Kinglet changes from *Regulous* to *Corthylio*. As of this report, the official Colorado list remains at 514 species.

Committee members voting on these reports were David Dowell (Longmont), Peter Gent (Boulder), Rachel Hopper (Fort Collins), Tony Leukering (Dodge City, KS), Bill Maynard (Colorado Springs), Kathy Mihm Dunning (Denver), Steven Mlodinow (Longmont), Christian Nunes (Boulder), Ric Olson (Castle Rock), Mark Peterson (Colorado Springs), and Jason St. Pierre (Durango).

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 request an electronic document from the Chair or Secretary.

REPORT FORMAT

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithological Society's

(AOS) Checklist of North American Birds (AOS 1998) through the 61st Supplement (Chesser et al. 2020) and are organized by regions in the state. 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). The abbreviations ANR (Accepted Not Reviewed) indicate the record was accepted by the chair, not reviewed by the committee. The abbreviations NANR (Not Accepted Not Reviewed) indicate the record was not accepted by the chair, not reviewed by the committee. The initial observer of the bird is underlined if known and is presented first. Additional contributors follow in alphabetical order by last name. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture are indicated with a dagger (†). Audio recordings are indicated with an asterisk (*).

RECORDS ACCEPTED

NORTHEAST

(Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma)

Snow Goose – *Anser caerulescens* (EV†; 2018-089; ANR) at Windsor, Weld, 23 January 2018.

Whip-poor-will sp. – *Antrostomus* sp. (SMI; 2013-218; 7-0) at Frenchman Creek State Wildlife Area, Phillips, 18 September 2013.

Red Knot – *Calidris canutus* (DSu†; 2018-067; 7-0). A rarity photographed at Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area, Washington, 22 August 2018.

Glaucous-winged Gull – *Larus glaucescens* (SMI; 2017-005; 6-1). Most of the committee felt that the detailed description of this gull was thorough and voted to accept. Reported from Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe, 15 - 28 January 2017.

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum*

(SR†*: 2015-047; 4-3, 6-1) at Yuma, 2 May 2015. The committee struggled a bit with this record as the audio recordings that were uploaded were certainly of an Alder Flycatcher, however the committee felt the photos that were included with the report depicted a Gray Flycatcher. After going to a second round, the majority concluded that the correct bird was recorded and submitted, but the wrong photos were included with the report.

Loggerhead Shrike – *Lanius ludovicianus* (CS†; 2014-058; ANR) at WCR 26 & 17, Weld, 6 February 2014.

Grasshopper Sparrow – *Ammodramus savannarum* (SR†; 2020-043; ANR) at Jumbo Reservoir, Logan, 6 Nov 2020.

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (JSht; 2020-012; ANR) at Sand Creek, Denver, 19 Apr 2020 – 2 May 2020.

Western Tanager – *Piranga ludoviciana* (DL†; 2020-064; ANR) at a private residence in Denver, Denver, 12 May 2020.

EAST CENTRAL

(Cheyenne, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln)

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens* (SMI; 2016-081; 7-0). A vocalizing bird at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, 18 May 2016.

Lark Bunting – *Calamospiza melanocorys* (SR†; 2020-042; ANR). The only accepted record of this species in the CBRC database for Kit Carson, photographed at Burlington, 9 Nov 2020.

Scott's Oriole – *Icterus parisorum* (BM†; 2018-050; 7-0). A very good first county record and excellent photo documentation at a private residence on Cordillera Court, El Paso, 31 May 2018.

Hepatic Tanager – *Piranga flava* (GC†; 2019-003; 7-0). An adult male photographed at a feeder at a private residence in Colorado Springs, El Paso, 25 May 2019.

SOUTHEAST

(Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo)

Tundra Swan – *Cygnus columbianus* (JT; 2018-036; 7-0). A long staying individual at North Gateway Park, Prowers, 7 March 2018.

Mottled Duck – *Anas fulvigula* (TL, SMI; 2018-060; 6-1) at Neegronda Reservoir, Kiowa, 22 July 2018 – 4 August 2018. Despite the lack of photographs, the majority of the committee felt the written description by two very experienced observers was thorough enough to accept. A second record for the state and the first for Kiowa.

Lesser Nighthawk – *Chordeiles acutipennis* (SMI; 2018-062; 6-1). The majority of the committee felt the description was of the species reported at Queens Reservoirs (Neeskah Reservoir area), Kiowa, 4 August 2018.

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* (SMI; 2018-042; 7-0). An excellent description of the important field marks for this rare cormorant at Queens Reservoirs (Neeskah Reservoir area), Kiowa, 22 April 2018 and well photographed alongside Double-crested Cormorants at Neegronda Reservoir, Kiowa, 29 July 2018 – 4 August 2018 (SMI†; 2018-071; 7-0). These are the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth records for the state. Although increasingly reported, Neotropic Cormorant remains a statewide review bird.

White Ibis – *Eudocimus albus* (DSu†; 2018-072; 7-0). Rare anywhere in the state, this is the eleventh record for Colorado and a second for Bent. A well photographed bird, this was a great find at Van's Marsh at Road JJ, 28 August 2018.

Common Black Hawk – *Buteogallus anthracinus* (BKP; 2015-044; 5-2, 5-2, 7-0) at Pueblo Reservoir area, Pueblo, 23 April 2015. After going to a third-round discussion, this record was accepted on the strength of the description by a very experienced observer. The twelfth record for the state and a first for Pueblo.

Snowy Owl – *Bubo scandiacus* (BM†; 2018-028; 7-0). Always wonderful to see, photographed at Pueblo Reservoir area, Pueblo, 8 January 2018.

Eastern Meadowlark – *Sturnella magna* (SMI*; 2018-063; 7-0). A first county record, well described and recorded calling at Queens Reservoirs (Neeskah Reservoir area), Kiowa, 29 July 2018.

Cape May Warbler – *Setophaga tigrina* (PHu†; 2018-081; 7-0) at Pueblo City Park, Pueblo, 25 November 2018 – 6 January 2019. This warbler was seen by many, but we only received one documentation.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (MF†; 2020-054; ANR). Photographed at a backyard feeder in Pueblo West, Pueblo, 22 May 2020.

NORTH CENTRAL

(Boulder, Broomfield, Grand, Jackson, Larimer)

Tundra Swan – *Cygnus columbianus* (AS†; 2005-167; ANR). Separated from Trumpeter Swan in an excellent description and photographed at College Lake, Larimer, 16 November 2005.

Common Gallinule – *Gallinula galeata* (RB†, JM, KK†, SR†; 2018-058; 7-0). Only the eleventh record for the state and frustrating many observers, this was a difficult bird to see at Cottonwood Hollow Natural

Area, Larimer, 1–15 Jul 2018. And the twelfth record for the state, a great find at CSU Environmental Learning Center, Larimer, 7 July 2018 (AB†; 2018-085; 7-0).

Arctic Tern – *Sterna paradisaea* (PB†; 2015-121; 7-0). The fifth record for Boulder at Boulder Reservoir, 11 November 2015.

Tricolored Heron – *Egretta tricolor* (KC†; 2018-052; 7-0). Photographed at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area, Larimer, a fourth county record on 8 June 2018. And a second county record for Boulder was photographed at Walden Ponds/Sawhill Ponds Complex, 12 June 2018 (SM†; 2018-054; 7-0).

Snowy Owl – *Bubo scandiacus* (PG†; 2018-031; 7-0). Photographed and seen by many observers at Boulder Reservoir, Boulder, 20 January 2018.

Gray Flycatcher – *Empidonax wrightii* (MM†; 2020-074; ANR). Photographed at Lake of the Pines, Boulder, 11 May 2020.

Black Phoebe – *Sayornis nigricans* (RB†; 2020-072; ANR). Reported more frequently in Colorado with 43 accepted records in the state, this Black Phoebe was photographed at CSU Environmental Learning Center, Larimer, 20 Apr 2020. Another was beautifully photographed at Rigidem Reservoir at Arapaho Bend Natural Area, Larimer, 15 April 2020 (JM†; 2020-011; ANR).

Eastern Bluebird – *Sialia sialis* (BA†; 2020-041; ANR). A first record in the CBRC database for Grand, at Grand Lake Area, 20 Nov 2020.

Kentucky Warbler – *Geothlypis formosa* (LH; 1981-500; ANR). An old record not previously published, at Bluebell Canyon ("Chautauqua Gully"), Boulder, 12 June 1981.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – *Setophaga caerulescens* (JM; 1993-500; ANR). An older record not previously published, a very well described bird at CSU Environmental Learning Center, Larimer, 2 November 1993.

CENTRAL

(Chaffee, Clear Creek, Douglas, Fremont, Gilpin, Jefferson, Lake, Park, Summit, Teller)

White-throated Swift – *Aeronautes saxatalis* (DB†; 2016-106; ANR). Two birds for a very late date at Tunnel Drive, Fremont, 30 December 2016.

Dunlin – *Calidris alpina* (SS†; 2020-045; ANR). A first county record at Manitou Lake, Teller, 26 Oct 2020.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (NL†; 2016-038; 7-0). This record was a first for Chaffee, photographed at Salida, 3 June 2016.

Juniper Titmouse – *Baeolophus ridgwayi* (NL†; 2014-153; ANR). At a private residence in Jefferson, 7

October 2014.

Brown Thrasher – *Toxostoma rufum* (JRe†; 2015-117; ANR). Photographed at 10,750 ft., a very unusual location on Guanella Pass, Clear Creek, 8 October 2015. A bird recorded singing at a private residence at Nathrop, Chaffee, 6 – 7 May 2017 (SW*; 2017-082; ANR). From 6 Dec 2020 – 28 January 2021, initially one, then two birds together off Hwy. 72 in Coal Creek Canyon, Jefferson, (JW†; 2020-053; ANR).

Snow Bunting – *Plectrophenax nivalis* (DSt†; 2020-006; ANR). A Snow Bunting photographed in the snow at Clear Creek Greenbelt, Jefferson, 7 Feb 2020.

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (SM†; 2014-182; ANR) at Golden, Jefferson, 11 – 14 December 2014. And at Red Rocks Park, Jefferson, 25 April 2013 (KP†; 2013-315; ANR).

Baird's Sparrow – *Ammodramus bairdii* (WF†; 2018-056; 7-0). A fantastic find, beautifully photographed, and a first county record for Jefferson at Coal Creek Open Space, 18 June 2018.

Rusty Blackbird – *Euphagus carolinus* (KW†; 2020-001; ANR). Two birds well photographed at Chatfield State Park (Douglas Portion), Douglas, 5 Jan 2020.

Hooded Warbler – *Setophaga citrina* (SW†; 2020-017; ANR). Photographed at Sands Lake State Wildlife Area, Chaffee, 5 May 2020.

Palm Warbler – *Setophaga palmarum* (TL†; 2018-082; 7-0). Photographed at Denver West Office Park, Jefferson, 28 November 2018.

SOUTH CENTRAL

(Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Huerfano, Rio Grande, Saguache)

Eurasian Wigeon – *Mareca penelope* (BKP†; 2019-016; 7-0). The first Eurasian Wigeon from Huerfano reported to the CBRC since 1970, found at Orlando Reservoir, 24 March 2019.

Long-tailed Jaeger – *Stercorarius longicaudus* (JR†; 2018-066; 7-0). A first record for the San Luis Valley and a first for Conejos, John Rawinski presented a most interesting and very extensive report in order to document this bird. John's thorough work which included multiple photographs of this roadkill bird from Fdr. 250 Rd., 7 September 2018, convinced the committee to unanimously accept this record. You can read his report and see the photographs here: <https://cobrc.org/Reports/PrintDoc.aspx?DocID=11721>

Franklin's Gull – *Leucophaeus pipixcan* (RT†; 2018-041; ANR). Photographed at Saguache, Saguache, 16 April 2018.

Black Phoebe – *Sayornis nigricans* (JR†; 2014-044; ANR). Photographed near Cattails Golf Course,

NORTHWEST

(Eagle, Garfield, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt)

Red-headed Woodpecker – *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (RN†; 2014-059; ANR). Photographed at Veltus Park, Garfield, 28 May 2018.

Yellow-breasted Chat – *Icteria virens* (DF†; 2014-177; ANR). Photographed on a late date at Carbondale, Garfield, 11 December 2014.

WEST CENTRAL

(Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Pitkin)

Scarlet Tanager – *Piranga olivacea* (CDe; 1996-501; ANR). A first county record for Mesa, at Grand Junction, 1 November 1996.

SOUTHWEST

(Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel)

Eurasian Wigeon – *Mareca penelope* (EH†; 2018-079; 7-0). A first county record, this long staying bird was well described and photographed at Cortez, Montezuma, 16 October – 21 November 2018. There are 53 records of Eurasian Wigeon in the CBRC database.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Larus fuscus* (JSP†; 2018-032; 7-0). A first county record photographed at Windsurf Beach (Navajo Lake State Park), Archuleta, 3 February 2018.

Least Flycatcher – *Empidonax minimus* (SA†; 2020-075; ANR). Well described and photographed at Pastorius State Wildlife Area, La Plata, 10 May 2020.

Vermilion Flycatcher – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (CDet†; 2017-063; ANR). A first county record for San Miguel, photographed near Snyder's Pond, 7 October 2017.

Blue Jay – *Cyanocitta cristata* (CH†; 2017-072; ANR). Photographed at a private residence at Cortez, Montezuma, 29 November 2017.

Pacific Wren – *Troglodytes pacificus* (JSP*; 2017-006; 6-1). A first county record at Durango, La Plata, 24 January 2017. The committee would have preferred to have reviewed the photographs along with the written report and the recordings, but even without the additional documentation, the majority agreed the recordings of the call notes were of Pacific Wren.

Common Redpoll – *Acanthis flammea* (BGr†; 2018-068; 7-0). Photographed at a private residence, this long staying bird was the first county record for Archuleta at Pagosa Springs, 6 March – 9 April 2018.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Many Colorado birders, expert and beginner alike, will eventually have a bird report “not accepted” by the CBRC. Some written descriptions simply do not provide enough descriptive details. Some reports do not have convincing enough photographs to provide enough evidence to support the record. And sometimes the key call or song was not heard well, or not described well, or not heard at all. The bird may very well refer to the species reported, but the details provided may not be convincing enough for the majority of the committee.

For the best consideration of the committee, follow a few key points when submitting a record; detail all important identification points, separate look-alike species, and when appropriate, address potential hybrids, make sure photographs show key features such as color, behavior and posture, and if the bird was recorded, include the recording and a sonogram if possible.

Accepted or not, as always, the CBRC appreciates all records that are submitted.

NORTHEAST

(Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma)

Glaucous-winged Gull – *Larus glaucescens*. (2014-204; 5-2, 3-4) at Barr Lake State Park, Adams, 5 February 2015. After going to round two, the majority of the committee felt that the photos and description did not rule out Thayer's Gull. And a second record (2015-023; 5-2, 3-4), was not accepted after going to round two at Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe, 26 February 2014. Some members of the committee felt that the description and the quality of the photos were not enough to rule out a hybrid or other gull species.

Arctic Loon – *Gavia arctica*. (2018-080; 1-6) at Marston Reservoir, Denver, 29 October 2018. The majority of the committee felt the bird in question was a Common Loon, the expected species in Colorado. Common Loons often roll on their sides giving the appearance of white flanks which can cause it to be confused with Arctic Loon. The large head and bill also looked correct for Common but not Arctic Loon.

Hermit Warbler – *Setophaga occidentalis*. (2016-044; 5-2, 3-4) at Crow Valley Campground, Weld, 15 May 2016. Some committee members felt the written description did not rule out a hybrid.

EAST CENTRAL

(Cheyenne, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln)

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens*. (2017-030; 4-3, 1-6) at Brett Gray Ranch, Lincoln, 05/21/2017. This silent bird was described but not photographed. After going to a second round, most committee members felt Eastern and Western Wood-Pewees should only be separated by vocalizations.

Rufous-backed Robin – *Turdus rufopalliatius*. (2019-011; 0-7) at Colorado Springs, El Paso, 3 April 2019. While it is not out of the question that the observer saw a Rufous-backed Robin, the CBRC would require photographic evidence for a first state record, single observer sighting.

NORTH CENTRAL

(Boulder, Broomfield, Grand, Jackson, Larimer)

Ross's Goose – *Anser rossii*. (2020-047; NANR) at Fort Collins City Park, Larimer, 6 Nov 2020. The photo submitted with the documentation was of a Snow Goose.

Mute Swan – *Cygnus olor*. (2013-66; 0-7) at St. Vrain State Park, Boulder, 22 February 2013. The Committee members unanimously felt that provenance of this bird could not be reasonably established and, therefore, decided not to accept this report. If a pattern for dispersal develops within western North America, and not just in Colorado, then this report may be reconsidered. The Committee urges observers to continue to submit documentation of Mute Swans that are possibly of wild origin to help establish a pattern of occurrence in the state.

Brown-crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus tyrannulus*. (2014-151; 5-2, 3-4) at Wellington State Wildlife Area/Cobb Lake Unit, Larimer, 10 September 2014. An intriguing report that generated a lot of discussion among committee members. After a second round, exhaustive review of the photos, and an outside expert opinion, the majority felt that this bird was best left as *Myiarchus* sp.

Winter Wren – *Troglodytes hiemalis*. (2014-203; 3-4) at Wild Basin, Boulder, 2 July 2014. A very intriguing record by a very experienced observer, this was undoubtedly a stub-tailed wren with three offspring. Complicating this report, both Pacific and Winter Wren have been seen and recorded in the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park where this sighting occurred. The description was thorough, and the song described, but no audio recording was made. Most of the committee felt although this was a quite detailed report, there was not enough evidence to conclusively determine which species was observed. The identification of the youngsters (Winter versus possibly Winter-Pacific hybrid) was more speculative.

CENTRAL

(Chaffee, Clear Creek, Douglas, Fremont, Gilpin, Jefferson, Lake, Park, Summit, Teller)

Costa's Hummingbird – *Calypte costae*. (2018-059; 0-7) at Castle Rock, Douglas, 10 July 2018. The photographs that were submitted showed a Calliope Hummingbird.

Long-tailed Jaeger – *Stercorarius longicaudus*. (2018-065; 1-6) at Chatfield State Park, Jefferson, 1 August 2018. Undoubtedly a jaeger, the majority of the committee felt that the description was too brief to identify to species.

Phainopepla – *Phainopepla nitens*. (2018-049; 0-7) at Dillon Reservoir, Summit, 23 May 2018. The photographs submitted were of a Steller's Jay.

SOUTHWEST

(Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel)

Mexican Whip-poor-will – *Antrostomus arizonae*. (2014-169; 3-4, 4-3) off Hwy. 140 just north of the state line, La Plata, 16 August 2014. While this was undoubtedly a whip-poor-will species seen by a very experienced observer, most of the committee felt that while the likelihood of an Eastern at this location was remote, without a recording of the vocalization it could not be accepted with absolute certainty as a Mexican Whip-poor-will.

* Citations and Reporters/Observers can be found on pg 225