

## THE 40TH REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Tony Leukering  
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory  
14500 Lark Bunting Lane  
Brighton, CO 80603

### Introduction

The Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) here provides the 40th report of its deliberations on submissions to the CBRC for documentation and archival purposes. In this article, I provide the results of the circulation of 44 reports submitted by 27 observers documenting 35 occurrences of 30 species. This article deals primarily with occurrences in 2003, but with a sizable number of occurrences from recent years that for various reasons had not previously been published. All reports originating from a year prior to 2003 have the year **bold-faced**. Of the reports here considered, the CBRC accepted 29 records of 24 species and did not accept six reports (of six species). Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Each report that was not accepted received fewer than four votes to accept in the final vote for that report.

The documents reviewed here include the second accepted record of Costa's Hummingbird, two accepted records of occurrences of Baird's Sparrow in Baca County in April 2000, and the first West Slope record of Grasshopper Sparrow to be accepted by the CBRC – there is a specimen record from Gunnison County and a previous sight report from Montezuma County cited in Andrews and Righter (1992). The CBRC has also accepted three first county records for Eurasian Collared-Dove; there is a backlog of first-county-record reports to review of this species which the Committee hopes to tackle soon. Please recall that the CBRC had asked for documentations for all potential first-county records of the species (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004).

The state list total remains at 477. Reports of Black Vulture and Kelp Gull are still circulating, and, if accepted, would add to the state list. Additionally, the CBRC has decided to review all archived reports of Bendire's Thrasher, as it did for jaegers a couple years ago (see Leukering 2003); the results should be published in the near future in *Colorado Birds*. The top seven observers submitting the most documents for inclusion here are: Jim Beatty (8), Tony Leukering (6), and Patrick Gould, Karleen Schofield, Dick Schottler, David Silverman, and an unnamed observer (2 each). Committee members voting on

these reports were Coen Dexter, Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Christopher L. Wood.

### Addendum

Responding to the direct request in the 38<sup>th</sup> report (Leukering and Semo 2004b), John Rees of New Mexico, sent in lovely photographs of the Blackpoll Warbler at Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata*, in May 2002 (2002-47). Thanks, John! Now, hopefully, others will respond to a similar request concerning a Yellow-throated Warbler (see below).

### Corrigenda

In the 37<sup>th</sup> CBRC report (Leukering and Semo 2004a), the Reddish Egret at Prewitt Reservoir was published with the wrong accession number (2002-77); it is actually 2002-135. The accession number of 2002-77 correctly belongs to the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher published in the same report.

In the 38<sup>th</sup> CBRC report (Leukering and Semo 2004b), the second-round vote tally for the Fort Morgan Eurasian Collared-Dove (2001-147) was incorrectly listed as 7-0; it was actually 6-1.

In the 39<sup>th</sup> CBRC report (Leukering and Semo 2005), a document was mistakenly omitted from the circulation of the Wood Thrush record from *Baca* (2003-43). So, please add Jim Beatty to the very short list of documenting observers and add 4 May 2003 to the time period accepted for the record.

### Committee Functions

All reports received (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004), and for reports of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. While documentary materials can be submitted in hard copy to Larry Semo (CBRC Chair; see address on the CBRC form provided inside the journal's dustcover), the CBRC would greatly appreciate submission via the new CBRC website, which is now online ([www.cfo-link.org](http://www.cfo-link.org); follow links to the CBRC website). Members' term-expiration dates are printed on this journal's masthead.

### Report Format

The organization and style of this report follow that of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. This report consists of three parts: Part I consists

of accepted records, Part II lists those reports that were not accepted because the documentation did not support the identification and/or eliminate all similar species, and Part III lists those reports of birds whose identification was not questioned but whose wild origin was. The CBRC wishes to reiterate at this time that the main reason reports are not accepted is that those reports either do not support the identification or do not fully describe the bird in question, thus failing to eliminate all other identification contenders.

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow that of A.O.U. (1998) and supplements. As of 1 January 2002, the CBRC removed from the main review list, but only from the main review list, those species preceded by the pound, or number, sign (#; Semo et al. 2002), thus the reports here are from a period when the species were on the main review list. Those species' names preceded by the plus symbol (+) are species that are rare in certain parts of the state or at certain times of the year and for which the CBRC requests documentation from those areas (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004). Also in 2002, the CBRC added a few species to the state review list for which there are numerous previous reports and these species are indicated by a preceding caret (^); the number of accepted records listed for these species is, obviously, only those accepted since 2002. Finally, an asterisk (\*) preceding a species' name indicates that the species is not currently on any CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002), but that the report is of some interest, due to location, date, plumage, etc., but for which documentation would not be required.

The numbers in parentheses after each species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado followed by the number of accepted records in the past ten years (1995-2004). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement on the main CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002). However, note that the number of accepted records will decline for some species as the CBRC tackles the backlog of determinations as to how many of the accepted records are simply recurrences in subsequent years of a known individual.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Each record presents as much of the following information as I have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, I present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, second round (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are underlined and presented first if that person (those people) contributed documentation; additional contribu-

tors' initials follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video image have a dagger (†) following their initials and those that submitted video are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "v" (v). Thus, the parenthetical expression of a report in Part I "(JD v, RA†, PEL, BR, DAS; 2002-36; 4-3, 5-2)" means: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and as the finder, is first in the list of those that submitted details with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so comes second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2002-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four "accepted" votes and three "not accepted" votes, the second-round vote was 5-2 in favor of accepting the report, and since this report was listed in Part I, the report was accepted at a CBRC meeting. The decision on most reports is completed on the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized, in keeping with the style established for the *News from the Field* column in this journal (e.g., Semo and Wood 2003). I have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans.

Abbreviations used in this report are: **BLSP**=Barr Lake SP, *Adams*; **BR**=Bonny Res., *Yuma*; **CBR**=Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso/Pueblo* (county indicated in account); **CVCG**=Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*; **FLWE**=Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*; **JR**=Jackson Res., *Morgan*; **LCC**=Lamar Community College, *Prowers*; **Res.**=reservoir; **SP**=State Park; **SWA**=State Wildlife Area.

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

**TRUMPETER SWAN** - *Cygnus buccinator* (23/12). An adult stood on Colorado River ice near Wolcott, *Eagle*, 30 December 2003 (JLB; 2003-6; 7-0). The out-of-state birder submitting documentation provided a nice sketch of the bill that helped the Committee in making a decision on the record.

**^TUNDRA SWAN** - *Cygnus columbianus* (5/5). Five adults escorting a juvenile/immature undoubtedly caused Beatty a slight elevation of blood pressure when he found them at Pastorius Reservoir 26 November 2003 (JB; 2003-146; 7-0). This occurrence probably accounts for the first *La Plata* record of the species, as Righter et al. (2004) does not map it there.

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus* (33/29). An adult in alternate that graced Highway 52 about 0.2 mi. west of the *Weld* line in *Boulder*, 13 May 2002 (NP †; 2002-214; 7-0), provided only the second accepted county record and the first since 1989. Another alternate-plumaged adult was along US 160 about 2 miles east of Hayden 28 April 2003 (MI; 2003-41; 7-0). This individual was the first found in Routt and only the second found on the West Slope; the first was at Sweitzer Lake, *Delta*, and provided the first state record back in 1986.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - *Buteo platypterus*. An adult was found along Highway 14 between Sheep and Red mountains, west of Stove Prairie Road, on 25 April 2001 (DF; 2002-210; 7-0) for a rare record away from the eastern plains.

+WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - *Calidris fuscicollis*. As this species is quite rare on the West Slope, the sighting of nine individuals at Fruitgrowers Reservoir, *Delta*, 6 June 2003 (JB; 2003-140; 7-0) is of more than passing interest. These birds were found on a CFO pre-convention trip and enjoyed by many, though the Committee received only one documentation.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - *Scolopax minor* (6/2). An individual heard peenting at the woodlot on the north side of Lake Henry, *Crowley*, 19 February 2001 (BKP; 2001-6; 5-2, 6-1) provided only the sixth accepted state record (in the sixth county, interestingly enough). Two recent reports from *Yuma* have yet to be submitted to the Committee.

POMARINE JAEGER - *Stercorarius pomarinus* (18/9). The CBRC is here finally publishing the results of voting on three older Pomarine Jaeger records, all of them of dark-morph juveniles. The first chased gulls at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, 30-31 October 1999 (TL, NE; 2000-42; 7-0), though documented from the second date only. The second report had previously circulated and been not accepted (Lisowsky 2001), but with additional information, it was recirculated and accepted – Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*, 6 November 1999 (DSi; 1999-48; 5-2, 6-1). Finally, another report that had previously been not accepted (Lisowsky 2001) that with additional documentation provided after the first decision was made, was recirculated and accepted. This last was at Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*, 15 November to at least 6 December 1999 (BB, TL; 1999-49; 7-0).

PARASITIC JAEGER - *Stercorarius parasiticus* (7/3). A dark-morph juvenile was present at Chatfield, *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, 9-13 October 2000, with submissions covering 10-12 October (TL, RO, DSc, JBH, JK; 2000-46; 7-0).

ARCTIC TERN - *Sterna paradisaea* (8/4). One juvenile was accepted by the

Committee as occurring at Chatfield, *Douglas* (only), 8-9 October **2000** (KS, DS, JK; 2000-66; 6-1). Though two birds were reportedly present 7-10 October, both documents received described only one Arctic Tern, so the CBRC is accepting only one. The CBRC will certainly entertain changing its collective mind on the number should it receive additional documentation describing two birds.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** - *Streptopelia decaocto*. The Committee accepted first-county reports for three counties in this batch of reports. The first *Kit Carson* record was of two birds found about one mile west of Burlington on 14 April **2001** (TL, LS †; 2001-174; 7-0). *La Plata*'s first accepted record was provided by a single bird at the home of Katherine Ortega near Durango 31 March 2003 (JB, KO; 2003-147; 7-0). The document provided also mentioned a separate occurrence near Durango in April 2003, but the document only describes one bird, so the CBRC has accepted that one and ignored the April occurrence. Also, the mention of the *La Plata* record in the relevant *News from the Field* column (Semo et al. 2003) cites the date as 21 March; the CBRC accepts the date on the documentation. Finally, *Boulder* scored its first with a single bird at Doudy Draw 7 May 2003 (SP; 2003-30; 7-0).

**COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD** - *Calypte costae* (2/2). An immature male was captured for banding at the Colorado State University field campus at Pingree Park, *Larimer*, 4 August 2003 (BW, TJ, CE †; 2003-64; 7-0) and Colorado racked up only its second accepted record.

+**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** - *Sialia sialis*. A male was found by the late Jack Merchant along Brush Creek Road southwest of Eagle 2-3 April **2000** (JM; 2001-10; 7-0), thus providing the first *Eagle* record.

**VARIED THRUSH** - *Ixoreus naevius* (21/12). A female, beautifully photographed, graced the Bell residence in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 1-3 January 2003 (NB; 2003-4; 7-0).

#**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** - *Vermivora chrysoptera*. A male was seen in the Mead yard in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 11 May **2001** (KS; 2001-57; 7-0). Karleen Schofield visited the Meads and wrote notes for them and submitted the sole documentation of the bird.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - *Dendroica dominica* (28/10). A singing male took up brief residence at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, 27 May - 5 June 2003 (DSi, MCL; 2003-47; 7-0). Despite reportedly being photographed by at least two observers, the Committee received no pictures of this relatively obliging individual; it is never too late to submit such.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** - *Dendroica discolor* (23/13). Two singing males were found at the Wagon Wheel Campground at Bonny Reservoir, *Yuma*,

6 May 2003 (JB; 2003-138; 6-1). The reporter believed there to possibly have been a female also, but there was no support in the documentation for that, so the CBRC here accepts only the two males.

+BLACKPOLL WARBLER - *Dendroica striata*. An immature flopped into a mist net at a Trout Creek banding station, *Teller*, 5 September 2003 (PG †; 2003-70; 7-0) for a potential first county record.

HOODED WARBLER - *Wilsonia citrina*. An immature was a nice find behind the Home Depot in Durango, *La Plata*, 2 September 2003 (JB; 2003-142; 6-1). Righter et al. (2004) list only two West Slope records and does not include this one.

+FIELD SPARROW - *Spizella pusilla*. A Field Sparrow captured, banded, and nicely photographed at Gould's banding station along Trout Creek 22 May 2003 (PG †; 2003-35; 7-0) provided a first *Teller* record. This record, from ~7800', also just misses being the high-elevation record for the state, being surpassed only by a record cited in Andrews and Righter (1992) from Shadow Mountain Village, *Grand*, at ~7900'.

+GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - *Ammodramus savannarum*. A fall migrant skulked at Totten Reservoir, *Montezuma*, 19 September 2003 (JB; 2003-144; 7-0) and provided a very rare West Slope record. Righter et al. (2004) list only four records from the West Slope and none since 1996.

BAIRD'S SPARROW - *Ammodramus bairdii* (11/4). The CBRC accepted two separate occurrences from April 2000 in *Baca*. The first was of at least two birds in southeastern Comanche NG (about 6 mi. southeast of Campo) on 22 April (TL, CLW; 2000-151; 7-0) and the second was of four individuals in a Conservation Reserve Program field on the east side of 8 Road near P Road on 30 April (TL; 2001-170; 7-0). Though the species is reported extremely infrequently in the state, a quick ogling of the species' breeding and non-breeding distributions would strongly suggest that it occurs regularly in the state in migration. The first record mentioned here was the result of an organized effort to search for Baird's Sparrow at a site at which it had previously been seen (see Lisowsky 2000).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - *Ammodramus lecontei* (10/4). At least eight spent the winter of 2002-2003 in a marsh on the west edge of John Martin Reservoir, *Bent*, but only six were documented and only on 20 December 2002 (BM; 2002-116; 7-0).

PAINTED BUNTING - *Passerina ciris* (26/16). A male with a mixture of red and yellow underparts graced the Geiger yard about eight miles west of Evergreen in *Clear Creek* 15-16 May 2003 (JG †; 2003-37; 7-0).

**Part II: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED**

**EURASIAN WIGEON** - *Anas penelope* (24/6). A female reported from an unnamed lake west of Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*, 11 November 2003 (2003-145; 2-5). The description was reasonable, but since the observer did not see the bird fly, and thus could not determine the color of the axillars, some CBRC members felt that a hybrid wigeon was not ruled out. I found a female wigeon at Utah Park, *Arapahoe* (when the Black Brant was there in fall 1999), with plumage perfectly consistent with that of female Eurasian Wigeon. That is, until review of photos showed the axillars were white as in American Wigeon, and not gray as in Eurasian Wigeon. So, the bird was almost certainly a hybrid.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** - *Calidris ferruginea* (1/1). An adult in basic plumage was reported from Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, 28 September 2003 (2003-108; 1-6). In the minds of most CBRC members, the description provided did not rule out Stilt Sandpiper or Dunlin, either of which would have been more likely.

**+LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - *Larus fuscus*. The record of an adult gull identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull and photographed at Walden Reservoir, *Jackson*, 23 June 2003 was not accepted (2003-77; 0-7). Though the single picture provided was illustrative, showing the white head and yellow bill with red gonydeal spot completely lacking black, some members felt that they could not rule out a hybrid gull of some sort. Unfortunately, the written description was very brief and did not allow for identification of the bird in question. The CBRC would be happy to entertain recirculating this record should more photographs come to light that would assist in putting a name to the bird.

**#WHITE-EYED VIREO** - *Vireo griseus*. An individual reported as an immature from Bohart Ranch, *El Paso*, 22 September **2001** (2001-83; 5-2, 1-6) was not accepted as the Committee felt that the description also fit Bell's Vireo, which, incidentally, would have been a rarer bird at the location.

**CERULEAN WARBLER** - *Dendroica cerulea* (3/1). A report of a female along a bike trail near C-470 in Douglas 31 May **2001** (2003-15; 3-4) was not accepted due to concerns that female Tennessee Warbler had not been eliminated by the description provided.

**CANADA WARBLER** - *Wilsonia canadensis* (25/8). A report of a bird identified as a Canada Warbler was submitted as occurring at Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*, 22 April **2001** (2003-12; 1-6). Committee members were concerned that the description did not

completely rule out other possibilities, probably due to the admittedly brief and somewhat obstructed views had of the bird by the reporter. It is unfortunate that none of the other birders there that day (chasing Yellow-throated Vireo and Blue-winged and Worm-eating warblers) saw the bird.

### Reporters and Cited Observers

Jocelyn Lee Baker, Jim Beatty, Nancy Bell, Bob Brown, David Elwonger, Donna Emmons, Carol English, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner, Jeffrey Geiger, Patrick Gould, Marshall Iliff, Tina Jones, Joey Kellner, Marie Cécile Lee, Tony Leukering, Bill Maynard, Jack Merchant, Katherine Ortega, Ric Olson, Brandon K. Percival, Nathan Pieplow, Suzi Plooster, Karleen Schofield, Dick Schottler (DSc), Larry Semo, Dave Silverman (DSi), Dixie Smith, Andrew Spencer, Brenda Wiard, Christopher L. Wood.

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