

Table continued from previous page

| SPECIES | NUMBER OF BLOCKS REPORTING: | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | CONFIRMED | PROBABLE | POSSIBLE | OBSERVED |
| House Finch | 27 | 26 | 56 | 1 |
| Red Crossbill | 5 | 9 | 34 | 1 |
| White-winged Crossbill | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Pine Siskin | 11 | 19 | 68 | 0 |
| Lesser Goldfinch | 6 | 15 | 28 | 0 |
| American Goldfinch | 5 | 15 | 26 | 0 |
| Evening Grosbeak | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| House Sparrow | 41 | 9 | 27 | 0 |

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CBRC REPORT

The 47th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee: Partial Results of Spring 2008 Circulations

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Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

Introduction

This 47th report presents the results of deliberations of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) on partial results of circulations held during spring 2008. This article

provides results of the circulation of 171 reports submitted by 28 observers documenting 123 occurrences of 66 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. Those records with four or five “accept” votes have transcended to a second round of deliberations, and results of those records will be published at a later date.

Three potentially new species to the state list are still pending within the CBRC: Vaux’s Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*).

Committee members voting on these reports were Coen Dexter, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, and Larry Semo.

Committee Functions

All reports received by the CBRC (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) 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, including both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002), and for species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. Those lists can be found at <http://www.cfo-link.org/birding/lists.php>. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (<http://www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php5>).

Report Format

The organization and style of this report follow those of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. If present, the numbers in parentheses following a species’ name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado, followed by the number of accepted records in the ten-year period preceding the submission. The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species’ continuance on or removal from the statewide Main Review List (Semo et al. 2002).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 48th Supplement (Banks et al. 2007). Each record presents as much of the following information as we have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we 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, if known, and are presented first if that person (those people) contributed documentation; additional contributors’ initials follow in alphabetical order by 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 capture have a dagger (†) following their initials; initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “v” (v); and those who submitted sonograms or recordings are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “s” (s). Thus, the parenthetical expression “[JD v, RA†, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 4-3, 6-1]” 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 2001-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four “accept” votes and three “do not accept” votes, and the second-round vote was 6-1 in favor of accepting the report. The decision on most reports is completed in 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). We 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 when documentations do not provide such. The CBRC encourages observers to document the final date on which a rare species was seen, as that provides historical evidence of the true extent of its stay.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Brant – *Branta bernicla* (17/8). An immature member of the *nigricans* race was at Long Pond and near City Park in Fort Collins, Larimer, between 18 Dec 2005 and 21 Jan 2006 (DFa †, LS; 2006-11, 7-0). Providing a first for well-birded Pueblo, an adult *nigricans* was at Rock Canyon below Pueblo Res,

Pueblo, on 7 Nov 2006 (BKP †, 2006-156; 7-0).

Eurasian Wigeon - *Anas penelope* (32/14). Three additional Eurasian Wigeons have been accepted, all males. One was at Alamosa NWR, Alamosa, on 1 Apr 2006 (BKP †; 2006-27; 7-0). Another was at Grand Junction, Mesa, on 8 Nov 2008 (RLe;

2006-157; 7-0). Thirdly, a male graced West Valco Pond between Rocky Ford and Swink in Otero on 17 Dec 2006 (BM †, DN, SQ; 2006-172; 7-0).

Ruffed Grouse – *Bonasa umbellus* (5/3). First discovered in Colorado on Hoy Mountain, Moffat, in 1988, Ruffed Grouse appears to be regular at that location. The CBRC recently accepted two new accounts of the species' occurrence.

The first was from 25 Sep 2005, when a single bird was seen (NP, AS; 2005-99; 7-0). On 21 Jul 2006, another (or the same bird?) was seen there (AS; 2006-111; 7-0).

Red-throated Loon – *Gavia stellata* (33/10). A first-cycle Red-throated Loon was photographed at Chatfield Res, Douglas, on 2 Nov 2006 (JK †; 2006-150; 7-0). A nice set of birthday gifts was presented to Mr. Percival when he spotted not one, but two Red-throated Loons at Pueblo Res on 17 Apr 2007 (BKP †, BM †; 2007-23; 7-0). One was in basic plumage and the other was in alternate, a plumage rarely detected in Colorado.

Arctic Loon – *Gavia arctica* (2/2). Following on the heels of Colorado's (and the interior U.S.'s) first record of Arctic Loon, Spencer discovered an alternate-plumaged *Gavia* at Chatfield Res in Douglas and Jefferson on 28 Sep 2005. Poor photographs were obtained that convinced the majority of the Committee that the bird



White Ibis, Logan County, 15 April 2006. Photo by Bill Schmoker

was indeed an Arctic Loon, based on head/neck shape, bill size, extent of white along the flanks, and the lack of an undertail vent strap (AS †, GW †; 2005-100; 6-1). Although attempts were made to consult outside experts on the species, none responded.

White Ibis – *Eudocimus albus* (7/6). An adult was photographed near Red Lion SWA, Logan, where present between at least 10 and 15 Apr 2006 (NP, BSc †, CWi †, CLJ, NH; 2006-29; 7-0). Another adult was at Pueblo Res SWA, Pueblo, between 22 and 23 Jul 2006 (BKP †, AS †; 2006-112; 7-0).

Glossy Ibis - *Plegadis falcinellus* (43/31). The incredible expansion of Glossy Ibis to the Rocky Mountain region continues. The CBRC recently accepted four new occurrences. Providing a first for Moffat, one was photographed near Maybell on 10 May 2006 (DFa, LS †; 2006-45; 7-0). In El Paso, one was near the intersection of Hanover and Old Pueblo Roads on 13 May 2006 (BM †; 2006-

51; 7-0). Another was near Red Lion SWA, *Logan*, on 29 May 2006 (DFa; 2006-91; 7-0). More recently, two Glossies were at CBR, *Pueblo*, on 12 Apr 2007 (BM †; 2007-22; 7-0). As the occurrence rate of this species has surpassed the average of three records per year over a 10-year period, the Committee will deliberate on whether to retain the species on the main review list. However, until a decision has been reached, the species should still be documented.

Common Black-Hawk – *Buteo gallus anthracinus* (6/4). An adult was at Cañon City, *Fremont*, between 10 and 12 Sep 2006 (BM †, AS, PG, NP, RM; 2006-123; 7-0).

Sandhill Crane – *Grus canadensis*. Establishing the first breeding record for *Weld*, a pair of cranes raised one young at Lower Latham Res, where documented on 22 May 2005 (NK † CWi; 2005-58; 7-0).

Snowy Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Very late was the bird photographed at NeeNoshe Res, *Kiowa*, on 2 Nov 2006 (NK †; 2006-149; 7-0).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Limosa haemastica* (27/7). Establishing the second record for *Larimer*, an alternate-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit was at Duck Lake between 27 and 29 May 2006 (NK †, RHo †, NP, CWi †; 2006-90; 7-0).

Least Sandpiper – *Calidris minutilla*. A rare winter record was afforded by the bird present along the Arkansas River below Pueblo Res, *Pueblo*, between 16 and 23 Dec 2006 (BKP †, BM †; 2006-171; 7-0).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Tryngites subruficollis* (29/9). A juvenile

was at Jackson Res, *Morgan*, on 1 Oct 2006 (BM †, BKP †; 2006-138; 7-0). The bird was apparently first found on 29 Sep, but no details of that account were provided to the CBRC.

Ruff – *Philomachus pugnax* (3/2). Very rare in Colorado, a juvenile was at Evilsizer Lake in *Lincoln* on 27 Sep 2006 (BGI †, BM †; 2006-135; 7-0).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Limnodromus griseus*. Unusual was the group of eight at Broomfield, *Broomfield*, on 18 May 2006 (DFa †, SD, DE, EZ; 2006-70; 7-0). Apparently the flock was discovered the day prior and was then larger in number; unfortunately, the Committee received no documentation of that occurrence.

Red Phalarope – *Phalaropus fulicarius* (35/17). A bird in definitive basic plumage was at Chatfield Res, *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, on 8 Oct 2006 (AS †, JK; 2006-143; 7-0).

Laughing Gull – *Larus atricilla* (34/17). A definitive alternate bird at *Pueblo* Res on 13 May 2006 (BKP †; 2006-52; 7-0) is the third record for *Pueblo*. A definitive basic bird, the fifth for *Weld*, was at a cattle pond at the intersection of CR 51 and CR 62.5 near Greeley on 2 Oct 2006 (NK †, SM; 2006-139; 7-0). Apparently the bird was seen at this location on later dates, though no details were submitted to the Committee.

Little Gull – *Larus minutus* (26/12). A first-cycle bird was at *Pueblo* Res on 13 Sep 2006 (BKP †, 2006-91; 7-0), providing the third record for that county. A bird in definitive basic plumage was near Lake Meredith on 10 Sep 2006 (GW †; 2006-124; 7-0), a first for *Crowley*.

Thayer's Gull – *Larus thayeri*. Establishing the latest date for Colorado, a second-cycle bird was at Cherry Creek Res, Arapahoe, on 3 Jun 2004 (JQ †; 2004-125; 7-0). In contrast, a first-cycle bird at Horseshoe Res, Larimer, on 9 Oct 2005 was extremely early for fall (NK †; 2005-152; 7-0).



Black-legged Kittiwake – *Rissa tridactyla* (31/10). A first-cycle bird was at

Cherry Creek Res between 2 Nov and 15 Dec 2006 (GW †, TL †; 2006-151; 7-0). A first-cycle kittiwake was also found at Lathrop SP, Huerfano, on 18 Nov 2006 (BKP †, 2006-160; 7-0) and was apparently present until 23 Nov, but no documentation on the entire length of stay was provided

Black-legged Kittiwake, Twin Lakes Forebay Lake, Lake County, 20 November 2006. Photo by Randy Hancock

to the Committee. The strangest occurrence was that of another first-cycle bird at the Twin Lakes Forebay in Lake on 20 Nov 2006 (RHa †, SY, 2006-161; 7-0).

Least Tern – *Sterna antillarum*. Out-of-range birds recently accepted include one at CBR, Pueblo, on 25 Apr 2006 (BKP †; 2006-40; 7-0) and two birds at Big Johnson Res, El Paso, on 2 Jun 2006 (BM †, BSt; 2006-96, 7-0).

Arctic Tern – *Sterna paradisaea* (12/9). An alternate-plumaged bird graced Lake Beckwith, Pueblo, on 22 Sep 2006 (DSi, BKP †; 2006-131; 7-0).

Royal Tern – *Sterna maxima* (2/2). Establishing the second record for Colorado, Peterson found an alternate-plumaged



Royal Tern, Big Johnson Reservoir, El Paso County, 17 June 2004. Photo by Rachel Hopper



Costa's Hummingbird, Prowers County, 22 September 2006. Photo by Jane Stulp

adult at Big Johnson Res on 17 Jun 2004 (RHo †, LS †, MP; 2004-126; 7-0).

Pomarine Jaeger – *Stercorarius pomarinus* (22/12). A juvenile was at Cherry Creek Res on 14 Sep 2005 (AS †, GW; 2005-93; 6-1).

Black-billed Cuckoo – *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (22/7). Andrew Spencer recently unearthed two historical specimens of female Black-billed Cuckoos housed at the Department of Zoology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins that were collected by L.E. Burnett near Loveland, Larimer. One was collected on 9 Jun 1902 (2007-110; 7-0) and the other on 13 Jun of the same year (2007-111; 7-0).

Whip-poor-will – *Caprimulgus vociferus* (10/1). While birding CBR, El Paso, on 20 May 2006, Semo flushed a Whip-poor-will. The bird landed

on a tree limb, but flew again soon thereafter into the thickets. Despite intensive searches by birders during the remainder of the daylight, the bird could not be re-found. However, as a small group of birders stood guard at dusk, the bird began calling intently, identifying itself as a nominate *vociferus* from the east. The bird remained present until the evening of 21 May, when other birders were also able to see it, hear it, and make audio recordings of its call (LS, BKP, NP s, CW; 2006-73; 7-0). This is the second record of this species for El Paso, the previous one being from July 1981.

Magnificent Hummingbird

– *Eugenes fulgens* (12/8). A female captured in the mist nets at CBR, El Paso, on 19 May 2002 was a first for the Eastern Plains (TL †; 2002-41; 7-0). In 2006, a female was at Durango Mountain Ski Resort, La Plata, between at least 24 and 27 Jul (JBy, NP, AS †, RB; 2006-113; 7-0). The bird was apparently at this location until well after 27 July, but we received no information on that extended length of stay.

Costa's Hummingbird – *Calypte costae* (5/5). Very unusual was the female or immature photographed five miles south of Lamar, Prowers, on 22 Sep 2006 (JS †; 2006-133; 7-0).

Red-naped Sapsucker – *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*. Although the species is a rather common breeder, winter records in the state are scanty at best. Rare was the adult male photographed in Trinidad, Las Animas, on 21 Jan 2006 (BKP †; 2006-10; 7-0).

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum* (18/8). Two records of Alder Flycatcher from 2006 were recently accepted. One was banded and photographed at CBR, *El Paso*, on 16 May (BGi †; 2006-68; 7-0) and an unbanded bird was photographed at the same location on 20 May (TL†; 2006-76; 7-0).

Black Phoebe – *Sayornis nigricans*. Black Phoebe continue to expand their distribution across Colorado. The CBRC reviewed and accepted three new records away from known breeding areas. One was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 12 and 26 Mar 2006 (CS, BM †, BKP †; 2006-24; 7-0). Another was near Mesa, *Mesa*, on 10 May 2006 (RB; 2006-46; 7-0). Thirdly, one spent at least a good part of the winter of 2006-07 at Valco Ponds below Pueblo Res, where present between at least 1 Dec 2006 and 3 Jan 2007 (BKP †, BM †; 2007-1; 7-0).

Great Crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus crinitus*. Westerly was the bird discovered at CBR, *Pueblo*, on 20 May 2006 (BGi; 2006-77; 7-0).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (28/20). A male was near Lake Hasty, *Bent*, on 16 Apr 2006 (BGi †; 2006-32 7-0). Later that same month, a female-type bird was photographed at Estes Park, *Larimer*, where present on 23 Apr (RHo †, SR, JW; 2006-39; 7-0).

Blue-headed Vireo – *Vireo solitarius* (17/16). An adult female was banded at CBR, *El Paso*, on 15 May 2006 (BGi †, CWi †; 2006-60; 6-1), establishing the first accepted spring record of the species in Colorado

and the first for the county. Another Blue-headed Vireo was banded later that same year on 6 Sep at Barr Lake, *Adams* (SN †; 2006-122; 6-1).

Philadelphia Vireo – *Vireo philadelphicus* (31/14). One at Prewitt Res, *Washington*, on 27 Aug 2006 (AS, SL, JoR; 2006-116; 7-0) was a first for that county. Another was at Greenhorn Mountain Park near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 12 Sep 2006 (DSi; 2006-125; 7-0).

Purple Martin – *Progne subis*. Martins are very rare on the Eastern Plains. The CBRC recently accepted two new records from that region. On 23 May 2006, three female-type birds were at CBR, *El Paso*, where photographed (BGi †; 2006-83; 7-0). Although the hypothesis cannot be confirmed, close examination of the birds' throat and forehead coloration in the submitted photographs suggests that they were spillovers of the breeding montane race *arboricola*. Although some Coloradoans on the Eastern Plains have installed martin nest boxes with the hope of someday drawing a nesting colony, there were few (if any?) indications of success prior to April 2006, when Leatherman found two second-year males tending a martin nest box in Lamar. The birds remained present until at least 4 Jun (LS †, DAL; 2006-179; 7-0). Based on behavior (associating with a nest box, unlike *arboricola*) and throat and forehead coloration, it appears the Lamar birds were of the easterly nominate *subis*.

Bewick's Wren – *Thryomanes bewickii*. Providing a very rare record for *Larimer*, one was photographed at Es-

tes Park on 14 Apr 2006 (RH_o †, SR, JuR; 2006-31; 7-0). The bird was apparently discovered the previous day, although the Committee received no details of that account.

Gray-cheeked Thrush - *Catharus minimus* (45/20). One of the most noteworthy events during the spring of 2006 was the incredible push of Gray-cheeked Thrushes through eastern Colorado. Although many more were reported than documented, the CBRC accepted seven new records of 14 birds. All birds except one were seen during a six-day period in the middle of May. Two birds were at CBR, Pueblo, on 11 May (BKP †; 2006-48; 7-0). One was at a private ranch near Briggsdale, Weld, on 12 May (GW †, JK; 2006-49; 7-0). Another was nearby at Crow Valley Campground (CVCG) on 14 May (NK, CWi †; 2006-53; 7-0). On 15 May, two thrushes were banded at CBR, El Paso (BGi †; 2006-59; 7-0). Three Gray-cheeks were at CVCG on 16 May (NK †; 2006-63; 7-0), while an additional four were banded at CBR, El Paso on that date (BGi †; 2006-65; 7-0). Later that autumn, one was banded at Barr Lake on 11 Oct (SN †; 2006-144; 7-0).

Curve-billed Thrasher - *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Northward was the bird present at Lakewood, Jefferson,

on 19 May 2006 (MC†; 2006-72; 6-1). As expected, photographs indicated that the bird was of the *oberholseri* race, the subspecies regular nearest to Jefferson.

Long-billed Thrasher - *Toxostoma longirostre* (4/2). It seemed incredible enough that Colorado had twice hosted Long-billed Thrashers prior to 2006, but to have two additional birds show up in the state during that winter seemed inexplicable. The first was discovered at CBR, El Paso, on 14 Jan and was documented as occurring until at least 3 Feb (BKP †, DFA, PG, BM †, AS †, CWi; 2006-6; 7-0). However, although no details were submitted to the Committee, the bird apparently remained at that location until at least April, when it was banded. The second bird was found in a residential yard in urban Denver, Denver, where it was documented for the period of 21-25 Feb (LS †, AS †,



Long-billed Thrasher, Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso County, 31 March 2006. Photo by Bill Maynard



Blackburnian Warbler, Weld County, 21 May 2006.
Photo by Rachel Hopper

CWi †, SA; 2006-18, 7-0), although the homeowner reportedly discovered the bird the day prior.

Phainopepla – *Phainopepla nitens* (10/3). Providing a very rare record for the state and the first for *Pueblo*, a female discovered seven miles south of Beulah was present between at least 5 and 15 Jun 2006 (MA†, BM †, 2006-99; 7-0).

Blue-winged Warbler – *Vermivora pinus*. Although Blue-winged Warbler is not on the state review list, out-of-season occurrences should be documented. As a point in case, an adult female was at the NeeNoshe Res Locust Grove in *Kiowa* on the late date of 3 Nov 2006 (JBy; 2006-152; 6-1).

Lucy's Warbler – *Vermivora luciae* (7/5). Lucy's Warblers continue to be found along Yellowjacket Creek in *Montezuma*. Birds were detected again in 2006 when three were found

on 4 Jul (AS; 2006-105; 7-0).

Northern Parula – *Parula americana*. Extremely late, a female or immature male was found dead on or slightly before 15 Jan 2006 in *Boulder*, *Boulder* (BSc †, AC; 2006-7; 7-0).

Cape May Warbler – *Dendroica tigrina* (22/5). A stunning alternate-plumaged male was along *Boulder Creek* in *Boulder* between 12 and 15 May 2004 (LK, RLi, RHo †; 2004-31; 7-0).

Blackburnian Warbler – *Dendroica fusca* (41/19). An alternate-plumaged male was near the intersection of County Roads 57 and 100 in *Weld* between 20 and 21 May 2006 (CWi, RHo †, SM; 2006-74, 7-0). Another alternate-plumaged male was photographed at *Last Chance* on 25 May of that same year; it was a first for *Washington* (LS †; 2006-178; 7-0).

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Dendroica dominica* (32/13). A bird in alternate plumage graced *Palmer Lake* in *Monument*, *El Paso*, on 15 Apr 2006 (BM †; 2006-33; 7-0). The bird was reported a day or so prior by out-of-country visitors, but we received no details on that original sighting. Another, found at *Fairmount Cemetery* in *Lamar*, *Prowers*, on 3 May 2007 (BKP †, AS †s, SH; 2007-31; 7-0), is the second record for that very location.



Yellow-throated Warbler, Lamar Cemetery, Prowers County, 4 May 2007. Photo by Andrew Spencer

Pine Warbler – *Dendroica pinus* (31/17). As Colorado birders will note, there has been an apparent increase in Pine Warblers in the state during the past five years or so. The CBRC recently circulated and accepted five new records of the species. An alternate-plumaged male was at Pueblo City Park on 20 Apr 2004 (TL †; 2004-74; 7-0). Another male, a first for Jefferson, was seen at an office complex in Denver West, where seen between 5 and 12 Feb 2005 (TL †, BKP †, BSc †, KS; 2005-7; 7-0). A first-cycle bird was at a feeder at Long Pond between 12 Dec 2005 and 8 March 2006 (RHo †; 2005-142; 7-0). In 2006, two birds were seen: an adult in Boulder between 14 and 16 Jan (TL †, BSc, NG; 2006-5; 7-0) and an adult male at Prewitt Res on 27 Aug (AS, NP; 2006-117; 7-0), the first for Washington.

Prairie Warbler – *Dendroica discolor* (27/16). An alternate male sang at

Arapaho Ranch along Middle Boulder Creek at a high elevation near Nederland, Boulder, where present between 15 and 20 May 2006 (DH †; 2006-62; 7-0).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Dendroica castanea* (38/11). A second-year male was at CBR, Pueblo, on 22

May 2006 (BGi †, BKP †, SSh; 2006-79; 7-0). That fall, a first-fall male was at Flagler, Kit Carson, on 17 Sep (BKP; 2006-129; 7-0).

Mourning Warbler – *Oporornis philadelphica* (24/11). An alternate-plumaged male was photographed at CBR, Pueblo, on 14 May 2006 (BGi †; 2006-54; 6-1) and another alternate male was near the intersection of County Roads 51 and 100 in Weld on 21 May of that same year (RHo; 2006-78; 7-0).

Canada Warbler – *Wilsonia canadensis* (30/12). An adult female or first-cycle male was at CVCG on 26 Aug 2006 (AS, JK; 2006-115; 7-0). On the following day, a bird of the same plumage type was at Prewitt Res, Washington (AS, NP; 2006-118; 7-0), representing the first accepted record for that county.

Hepatic Tanager – *Piranga flava* (21/6). Although the species has long been suspected of breeding in Colo-

rado, nesting was finally confirmed in 2006 when a pair and two young were found at the Bader Ranch near Kim, *Las Animas*, on 18 Jul 2006 (AS †, CWi †, MP; 2006-110; 7-0). Evidently the pair was found earlier in the season, although no details were provided to the Committee.

Summer Tanager – *Piranga rubra*. Quite rare (but increasing?) in southwestern Colorado, two alternate-plumaged males were along Yellowjacket Creek in *Montezuma* on 4 Jul 2006 (AS, BKP, JK; 2006-106; 7-0).

Scarlet Tanager – *Piranga olivacea* (31/16). An alternate-plumaged male brightened CBR, *Pueblo*, where photographed on 14 May 2006 (BGi †, BKP; 2006-57; 7-0). A second alternate male was in Fort Collins on 23 May of that same year (NK †; 2006-82; 7-0). Thirdly, a basic-plumaged male was seen at Prewitt Res, *Washington*, on 29 Sep 2006 (JK, GW; 2006-136; 7-0).

Eastern Towhee – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (14/11). An adult male was at CBR, *El Paso*, between 6 Jan and 3 Feb 2006 (TL †, BKP †, AS †, DF, NK, CWi, MPe; 2006-2; 7-0). An adult female was at CVCG on 23 May 2006 (CWi †, JoR; 2006-85; 7-0). This bird was apparently discovered the previous day but no documentation was submitted to the Committee.

Field Sparrow – *Spizella pusilla*. The CBRC requests details on Field Sparrows away from the eastern edge of the state. During the recent circulation, four significant records of the species were accepted. Quite clearly establishing a first for *Archuleta*, and

a very late one at that, a Field Sparrow was at Navajo SP on 21 Jan 2006 (JBy; 2006-12; 7-0). Two Field Sparrows were at CBR in 2006, one on the *Pueblo* side on 11 May (BGi; 2006-47; 7-0) and another in *El Paso* on 20 May (BGi †, TL; 2006-75; 7-0). Lastly, a territorial bird was atop North Table Mountain in *Golden*, *Jefferson*, on 16 Jun 2006 (DH; 2006-100; 7-0).

Sage Sparrow – *Amphispiza belli*. Rare in northeast Colorado, one was photographed near *Loveland*, *Larimer*, on 10 Mar 2006 (CK †; 2006-23; 7-0).

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). Three birds of the northern “Red” group (*P. i. iliaca/zaboria*) were recently accepted. One was at CBR, *Pueblo*, on 5 Apr 2006 (BM †, BKP †; MPe; 2006-28; 7-0). One was banded at Barr Lake on 13 Oct 2006 (SN †; 2006-145; 7-0). A third bird was at the NeeNoshe Res Locust Grove on 3 Nov 2006 (JBy; 27 Dec. 2006-153; 7-0).

Golden-crowned Sparrow - *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (19/11). A first-cycle bird was at Parrish Ranch near *Berthoud*, *Boulder*, between 27 and 28 Dec 2006 (TL †, BSc †, PO; 2006-175; 7-0). Although the bird was evidently first discovered on the Longmont CBC on 16 Dec, no details were submitted for that earlier date.

Painted Bunting – *Passerina ciris* (29/16). At what is becoming a normal summer location for the species, an alternate male was again at Cottonwood Canyon in *Las Animas* on 18 Jul 2006 (AS †, CWi †; 2006-109; 7-0).



Golden-crowned Sparrow, Boulder County, 1 January 2006. Photos by Tony Leukering

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

The Committee recognizes that its decisions may upset some observers. We heartily acknowledge that those who make the effort to submit documentation certainly care whether or not their reports are accepted. However, non-accepted records do not necessarily suggest that the birder misidentified or did not see the species. A non-accepted record only indicates that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to catalogue on the list of confirmed bird records for the state. Non-accepted reports may provide evidence that does not mention certain requisite field marks or indicates that the conditions of the observation did not permit the proper study of all necessary traits. All non-accepted records are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. We summarize below why the following reports were not accepted.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)— Details on an alternate-plumaged bird at Fruitgrowers Res, Delta,

on 23 May 2006 (2006-84; 2-5) noted a dark eye with no trace of white facial feathering. Although the report noted that the legs were dark and red only at the tibia-tarsi joints, no blue facial pattern to the face was seen. As second-cycle ibis may not display full alternate plumage, it is not known whether the bird may have been a White-faced in that age bracket or a hybrid. The observer did not comment on the possibility of its being a hybrid, despite the fact that the field marks noted were suggestive of such.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)— Little CBRC endorsement was given to the report of an Osprey at Connected Lakes in Grand Junction on the very strange date of 25 Jan 2006 (2006-15; 2-5). Although most of the description could indicate Osprey, it could also refer to a third-cycle Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which was not eliminated as a possible contender. Another key factor in the lack of acceptance was that the observer commented on the great wingspan length, but then noted that the bird

was about the size of a Peregrine Falcon, which an Osprey should certainly surpass in size.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)— Although it most certainly referred to a Painted Bunting, the description of a female-type bird seen at CBR, *El Paso*, on 16 May 2006 provided very little information to the Committee as to the bird's identity (2006-64; 3-4). The only details noted were that it was small, had a thick bill, and had light green upperparts and yellowish underparts. Those details alone could describe an escaped Budgerigar.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)— A calling bird seen briefly at Soapstone Ranch near Carr, *Larimer*, on 6 Jun 2006 failed to gain much CBRC support (2006-98; 1-6), as the

information provided was extremely brief and failed to completely rule out Western Meadowlark (*S. neglecta*).

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

— The report of an adult female from Soapstone Ranch from 24 May 2006 may have been a Baltimore (2006-87; 3-4); however, as Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles (*I. bullockii*) interbreed frequently along their zone of sympatry, and as various degrees of introgression through backcrossing exist, identification of a wayward Baltimore requires careful analysis of why the bird exhibited phenotypic traits of the species. Although the description was suggestive of a Baltimore, the observer did not provide the Committee with any rationale as to why the bird was not of hybrid origin.

REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

The CBRC graciously thanks the following individuals for submitting records of or discovering rare species in Colorado that prompted this circulation: MA: Mynn Ackley; JBy: Jim Beatty; RB: Richard Brown; AC: Alan Carpenter; MC: Mark Chavez; SD: Stephen Dinsmore; DE: Dave Ely; DF: Doug Faulkner; NG: Nelda Gamble; PG: Peter Gent, BGI: Brian Gibbons; RHa: Randy Hancock; DH: Derek Hill; RHo: Rachel Hopper; JK: Joey Kellner; LK: Loch Kilpatrick; CK: Connie Kogler; NK: Nick Komar; DAL: David A. Leatherman; TL: Tony Leukering; RLe: Rich Levad; RLi: Roger Linfield; BM: Bill Maynard; SM: Steve Messick; RM: Rich Miller; SN: Starr Nicely; BKP: Brandon K. Percival; MPe: Mark Peterson; NP: Nathan Pieplow; SR: Scott Rashid; JuR: Julie Roederer; SR: Scott Roederer; JoR: Joe Roller; BSc: Bill Schmoker; CS: Chris Schoenfelder; KS: Karleen Schofield; LS: Larry Semo; SSh: Scott Shaum; DSi: David Silverman; AS: Andrew Spencer; BSt: Brad Steger; JS: Jane Stulp; GW: Glenn Walbek; CWi: Cole Wild; JW: Judie Wright; SH: Sherrie York.

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THE HUNGRY BIRDER

North Park

Nathan Pieplow and Andrew Spencer

Lekking Greater Sage-Grouse. Winter flocks of Rosy-Finches. Singing Boreal Owls on Cameron Pass. Some of Colorado's best wetlands, home to waterbirds that breed nowhere else in the state. The chance for a rare gull or shorebird or a wintering Gyrfalcon. Moose wallowing in swampy draws. Stunning scenery that you rarely have to share with anybody else.

At any time of year, there is a reason for birders to go to North Park.

But even though it is only two hours or so from the northern Front Range, this beautiful high mountain valley can seem as remote as the moon. Jackson County has only one town of any size—Walden—and relatively few services. The area doesn't offer many choices of places to eat, but it's got some decent quality.

We'll start off our restaurant review with a brief requiem for the dearly de-



North Park, Jackson County. Photo courtesy of the USDA Forest Service