

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT  
1981

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This report contains records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee (R.C.) from 1981. Activities of the R.C. from its inception in May 1972 to date have been reported by Reddall (1973a, b, c; 1974a, b; 1975; 1976a, b) Andrews (1978, 1979) and Chase (1981a, b, 1982). The list of Colorado birds as recognized by the R.C. stands at 430 species as of 1 May 1982.

The R.C. currently consists of nine members: Robert Andrews (Denver), Daniel Casey (Lakewood), Charles Chase (Denver, Chairman), Kevin Cook (Fort Collins), Ed Holloway (Meeker), Steve Larson (Boulder), Tim Manolis (Boulder), Ron Ryder (Fort Collins), and James Sedgewick (Fort Collins). The following new members have replaced certain outgoing members and have been involved in some if not all records reviewed herein: Richard Bunn (Colorado Springs), Peter Gent (Boulder), Mark Holmgren (Boulder), Mark Janos (Delta).

All records received are reviewed by the committee and rated according to an A-B-C-D system. A is a record for which the submitted documentation supports the stated or claimed identification. B indicates that the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made. C indicates that the submitted documentation is too brief or incomplete to allow its inclusion in either of the two previous categories. D is used when a member is reviewing his/her own record or is unfamiliar with the species in question and can give no opinion. A record, once completed, will be resubmitted through the Committee only if an error was made initially or if new information regarding the identification of the species in general is brought forward. Since all records are stored at the Museum and are open to the public, anyone may use these records.

The following is a list of species for which the R.C. desires documentation (in addition to any species unrecorded from Colorado):

Yellow-billed Loon, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, European Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Whooping Crane (except San Luis Valley), King Rail, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, American Woodcock, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Red Phalarope, all Jaegers, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Caspian Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Whip-poor-will, Lesser Nighthawk, Anna's, Magnificent, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black

Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Martin (E. Slope only), Sedge Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Varied Thrush, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Sprague's Pipit, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Swainson's, Blue-winged, Lucy's, Cape May, Hermit, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Prairie Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning and Canada Warblers. Painted Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark (except at Red Lion State Wildlife area), Scott's Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle (except in San Luis Valley), Hepatic Tanager, Painted Bunting, LeConte's, Sharp-tailed, Baird's and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Part I -- Species added to the Colorado list

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One reported (10-80-83) 20 & 21 June 1980 by R. Andrews and K. Kittleman (separate observations) at Chatfield State Recreation Area. Underwing and tail diagnostic characters clearly noted in both reports.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). One observed and well photographed (23-80-17) 7 March 1980 at Sloans Lake, Denver Co., by R. Andrews, C. Chase, M. Holmgren and R. Rozinski. This first winter gull was flying with several Ring-billed Gulls and was unusual in the dark stain on the lower breast and belly. (For additional record see Part III).



Photos by R. Rozinski



Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*). One observed and photographed (23-82-72) 25 July 1981 at Antero Reservoir, Park Co. The first summer bird in extremely worn plumage only remained in the area for a few days. Report by C. Chase and P. Gent.

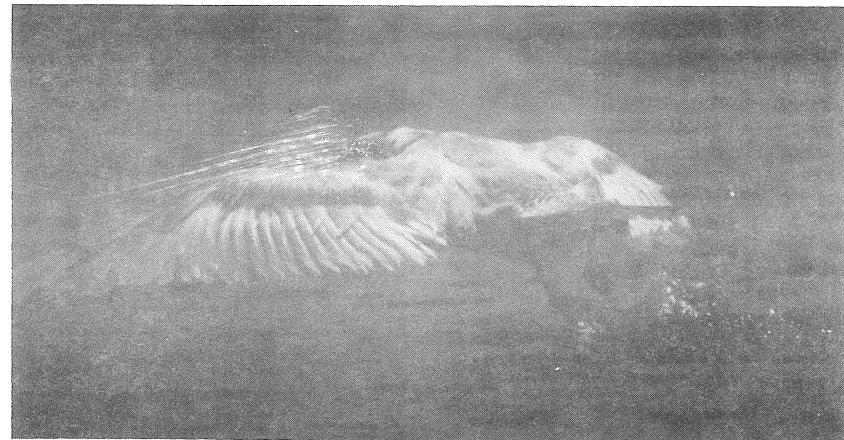


Photo by C. Chase

Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*). One picked up from road in Aspen, Pitkin Co., on 22 August 1982 subsequently died and is in the Denver Museum of Natural History (37691). While this is the first record for Colorado there were 3 other inland records during the same fall of the asiatic race of this bird.

Part II -- Reported species not added to the Colorado list

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). One observed and photographed (23-80-24) on Tower Road, Adams Co., 14 August 1977. This well photographed bird demonstrates all diagnostic characters of a 1st winter Bonapartes' Gull (especially the upper and lower wing patterns) except for a larger than normal bill.



Photo by P. Moulton

Common Ground Dove (Columbina passerina). One observed (25-81-63) at Tamarack Ranch, Logan Co., on 17 December 1981. Excellent details however, since this was a single observer report with no photos or specimen, this species must remain on the hypothetical list.

Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa). One observed (28-81-49) several times near Buena Vista during the 1981 summer. The minimal details provided in the report preclude an adequate review by the R.C.

Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus). Two observed (33-82-75) at Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, Duray Co., 10 August 1982. The single report received of this observation does not contain an adequate description to eliminate all other possibilities, especially Williamson's Sapsucker.

White-headed Woodpecker (Picoides albolarvatus). One observed (33-83-3) near Craig, Moffat Co., last of June through 1st of July. Sketchy details and failure to eliminate albinism result in this report not being considered for the state list.

Black-chinned Sparrow (Spizella atrogularis). One observed (56-81-32) near Berthoud, Larimer Co., 26 November 1980. Inadequate details to fully eliminate similar species (Juncos).

### Part III -- Reports of Rare Species

The following is a summary of the class A records reviewed by the Records Committee in 1981 (records in which the submitted documentation supports the stated identification).

Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea). Immature bird (5-81-60) at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson Co., 21 August 1981, (RH).

Black-bellied Tree Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis). One (8-81-59) at Silt, Garfield Co., 28 April 1981, (RP). 2nd record for Colorado; likely escapee.

Brant (Branta bernicla). One observed (8-81-58) feeding, flying and associating with Coots at Cherry Creek Reservoir, 24-31 October 1981, (FP, H & UK) 6th state record.

Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicaria). One winter plumaged (21-81-54) at Barr Lake, Adams Co., 10 October 1981 (H & UK). 10th record.

Mew Gull (Larus canus). One adult (23-82-71) Sloans Lake, Denver Co., 22 March 1982 (BR). 2nd state record (Photograph).

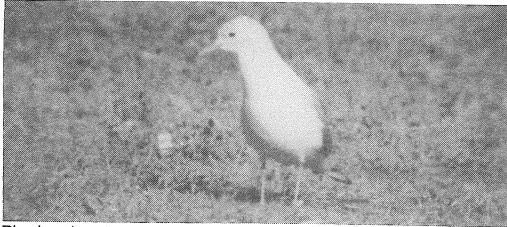


Photo by B. J. Rose

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia). One breeding plumaged bird (23-81-55) at Antero Reservoir, Park Co., 16 August 1981 (H & UK). 7th record.

Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis). One photographed (28-82-54) at Amphitheatre Trail, Boulder Co., on 7 November 1982 (D & LJ). 15 record.



Photo by D. Johnson

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus). Two observed and photographed on several dates (28-81-48) in April and May, Corral Park, Larimer County (DP, RR). 1st nesting record. Attempt failed and eggs are in DMNH collection.



Photo by D. Palmer

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger). 10 observed (30-81-28) at Zapata Falls, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, 4 July 1981 (JM). Both this area and up Mosca Creek at the Monument should be good nesting sites (ed.).

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger). 2 observed (30-81-62) Lake Catamount, Steamboat Springs, Routt Co., on 22 August 1981 (CA).

Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna). One male (31-81-5) Beulah, Pueblo Co., 27 September - 8 October 1977 (P & WS). 4th record.

Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus). One male (33-8-46) Bonny Reservoir, Yuma Co., 23 & 24 March 1981. (RB). Quite out of expected range!

Gray Flycatcher (Empidonax wrightii). Four observed (34-81-38) Temple Canyon, Fremont Co., 25 May 1981 (RB). Several also collected same week by DMNH at same locality (ed.).

Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis). One observed 44-80-77) with westerns at Hotchkiss, Delta Co., 17 December 1977. 1st west slope record.

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus). One banded (51-81-43) in Aurora, Arapahoe Co., 8 September 1980 (MS). 18th record - identified by 9th primary length in hand.

Grace's Warbler (Dendroica gracae). Three observed (52-81-44) Boulder, Boulder Co., on 18 October 1980 (PC).

Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus). One male (56-81-35) in Big Thompson Canyon, near Loveland, Larimer Co., 28-39 January 1980 (MHe). Winter record.

Dickcissel (Spiza americana). One breeding plumaged male (56-81-36) at Manitou Lake, near Woodland Park, Teller Co., 22 June 1981 (EW). 6th mountain record.

Black-throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata). 3 adults and 1 juvenile (56-81-31) at Baculite Mesa, Pueblo Co., June-July 1981 (RB). First east slope breeding record. (ed. notes) This species has now been found year-round in Pueblo and Las Animas Counties.

Bobolink (Dolichonyx oryzivorus). One male (56-81-34) near Berthoud, Larimer Co., on 28 January 1981 (CCu). Excellent details accompany this extraordinary date.

Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum). Nest located (54-81-57) at Norman Gap, Rio Blanco Co., summer 1981 (EH). This species is being found with increasing frequency along the Utah border.

White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera). 3 found (56-81-37) at Divide, Teller Co., 23 June 1981 (RB). Another record of the incredible crossbill year of 1981.

The following is a summary of a class B and C records reviewed by the Record Committee in 1981 (records in which the submitted documentation indicates a misidentification was probably made or in which details are incomplete).

Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata). One (1-81-41) Bonny Reservoir, Yuma Co., 13 November 1980.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Two immature (23-81-56) Valmont Reservoir, Boulder Co., 8 December 1983.

Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca). One (28-81-47) Loveland, Larimer, 19 October 1980.

Black Phoebe (Sayornis nigricans). One (34-81-39) 2 May 1981 at Pastorius Reservoir, La Plata Co.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minimus). One (44-81-42) Muir Springs, Fort Morgan, Morgan Co., 10 May 1980.

Spragues Pipit (Anthus spragueii). Many (46-81-50) Antero Reservoir, Park Co., June 1981.

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus). One (51-81-45, Durango, La Plata Co., 9 September 1980.

Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii). One (51-80-61), Ridgway, Ouray Co., 24 August 1980.

Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus). One adult male (52-80-82), La Jara, Conejos Co., 17 July 1980.

Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna). One (54-81-40) near Gunnison, Gunnison Co., 7-11 June 1980.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (Aimophila ruficeps). One (56-80-80) Boulder, Boulder Co., 14 September 1980.

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina). Several (56-81-30) Hanna Ranch, El Paso Co., January-February 1980.

LeContes' Sparrow (Ammodramus leconteii). Two (56-80-58) Olympus Dam, Larimer Co., 15 May 1980.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammospiza caudacuta). One (56-81-33) Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld Co., 27 December 1980.

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus). One male (56-77-9) Evergreen, Jefferson Co., 2 May 1976.

Contributors

Cary Atwood (CA), Robert Andrews (RA), Richard Bunn (RB), Pilk Carter (PC), Charles Chase (CC), Camille Cummings (CCu), Peter Gent (PG), Richard Heil (RH), Maxine Hennessee (MHe), Mark Holmgren (MH), Don & Lee Johnson (D&LJ), Hugh & Urling Kingery (H&UK), Kate Kittleman (KK), John Mangimeli (JM), David Palmer (DP), Ruth Parkinson (RP), Floyd Pendell (FP), B.J. Rose (BR), Ronald Ryder (RR), Mildred Snyder (MS), Pat & Ward Stryker (P&WS), Elinor Wills (EW).

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